

LONDON'S 'LIGHTS' ARE SHINING BRIGHTER

Special survey of the Capital's clubs

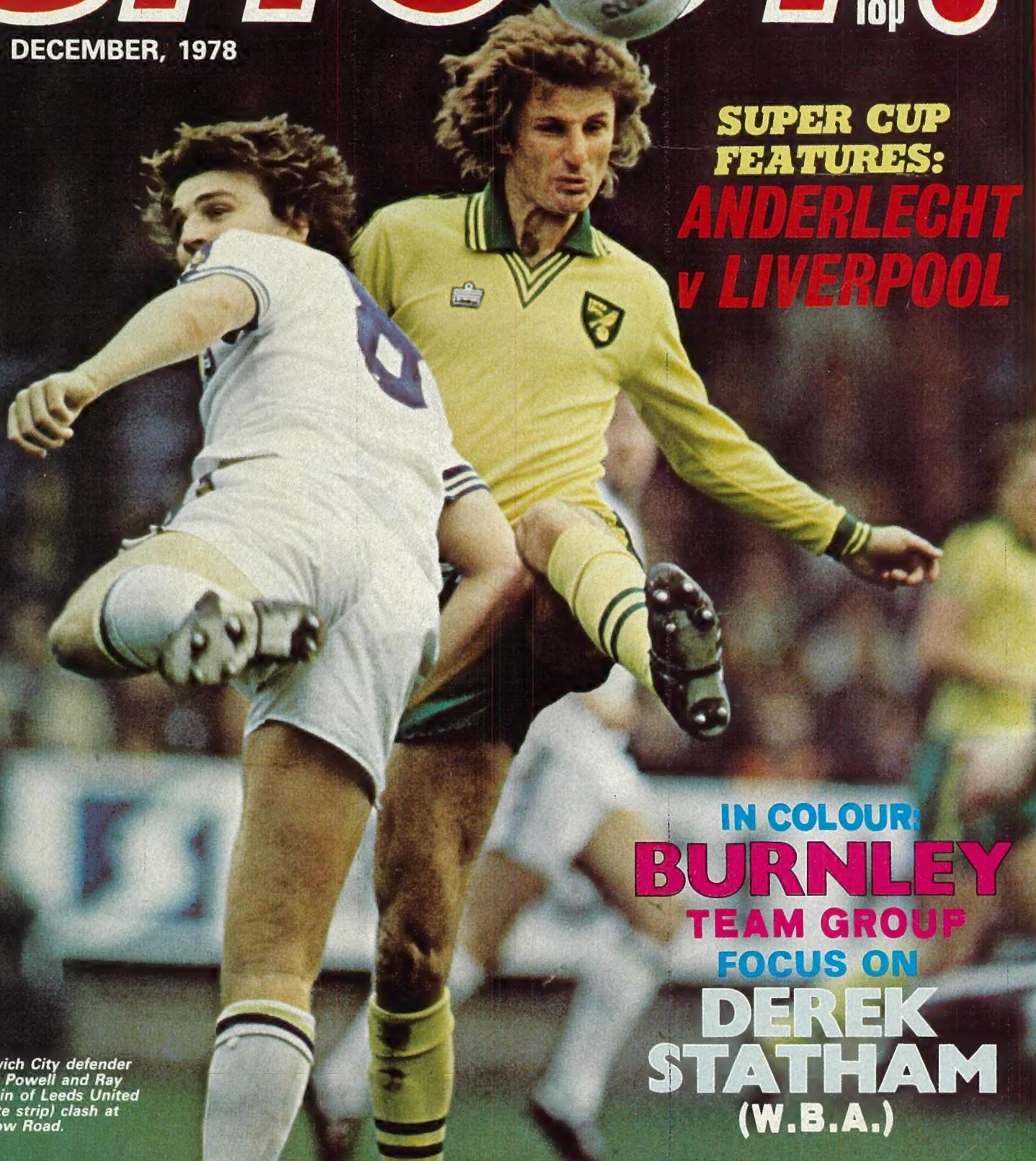
SHOOT!

9th DECEMBER, 1978

18p

SUPER CUP
FEATURES:

**ANDERLECHT
v LIVERPOOL**



Norwich City defender
Tony Powell and Ray
Hankin of Leeds United
(white strip) clash at
Carrow Road.

IN COLOUR:
BURNLEY
TEAM GROUP
FOCUS ON
**DEREK
STATHAM**
(W.B.A.)

ARSENAL march on in Europe, Spurs and their colourful Argentinians have overcome a poor start to startle the First Division, Queens Park Rangers are steadily improving under their new boss Steve Burtenshaw and four London teams are challenging in the Second Division's promotion pack. No doubt about it, London soccer, so often the butt of provincial jokes, is enjoying a mini-revival.

Far from signalling an era of London domination, Arsenal's League Championship and F.A. Cup "double" in 1971 marked the end of a period during which the capital's clubs influenced the destiny of the major honours and laid their own roads to the Continent.

Inside ten glorious years West Ham United appeared in two European Cup-Winners' Cup Finals, winning at Wembley in 1965, Arsenal won the old Fairs Cup in 1970, Chelsea beat Real Madrid in the 1971 Cup-Winners' Cup Final and Spurs won and lost U.E.F.A. Cup Finals.

But apart from West Ham's 2-0 F.A. Cup Final win over London neighbours Fulham in 1975, the capital has suffered a period of stagnation in terms of tangible success.

Despite the customary predictions of gloom from the oft critical provinces, London's teams have made a promising and positive start to 1978-79. In layman's terms, things are definitely looking up in "The Smoke".

Ravaged by injuries, Arsenal are still a force to be reckoned with, proving last season's achievements — F.A. Cup runners-up and League Cup Semi-Finalists — were no flash in the pan.

Tide Must Turn

They stand comfortably on the edge of the Championship race and are in the middle of an exciting U.E.F.A. Cup Third Round clash with Yugoslavian aristocrats Red Star Belgrade, knowing that injuries such as those which have sidelined Malcolm Macdonald, Alan Sunderland, David O'Leary and Richie Powling represent a tide of misfortune which must soon turn in their favour.

Money is no problem. Arsenal have a reported £700,000 to spend. But attempts to raid the transfer market stumble on overnight price rises. As chairman Denis Hillwood complains: "Other clubs think we are millionaires. The motto seems to be that if Arsenal are interested, the price goes up."

Manager Terry Neill said: "I am pleased with what we have achieved so far in Europe".

Down the road at White Hart Lane Spurs, back in the First Division after one season battling in the Second, have recovered from a bad start during which they lost 4-1 at home to Aston Villa and 7-0 at Liverpool.

Argentinian imports Ricardo Villa and Osvaldo Ardiles have settled in, especially Ardiles whose midfield promptings have given the team a new dimension. Manager Keith Burkinshaw has balanced his books by selling Neil McNab, Ralph Coates and John Duncan.

Said Burkinshaw: "It was difficult for the Argentinian lads to settle in straight away. Obviously they need a few games to adjust. But we have shown character in overcoming a disappointing start."

Steve Burtenshaw, former Arsenal and Everton coach, appears to have applied the calming touch to Loftus Road where Q.P.R. are slowly but surely overcoming their problems to settle in the First Division.

Burtenshaw has attracted few headlines. But he has worked quietly, organised his resources, and with a rapidly readjusting Gerry Francis needing only to shed a few more pounds before returning to full match fitness, Rangers are beginning to look a solid and consistent unit, as Everton discovered when they clawed a point away from Stan Bowles and Co in a tremendous 1-1 draw.

Chelsea undoubtedly have their problems. But they also have a young squad, some top class players in Duncan McKenzie, Ray Wilkins and Garry Stanley, and a ground fit to grace any major competition in the world.

All manager Ken Sheltito needs is a fit-again Micky Droy at the

THE LONDON REVIVAL

GLOOM LIFTS

heart of a wobbly defence and to impart the conviction to his youngsters they are better than some of their early-season displays indicate.

They went to Wolves and won 1-0 and showed great character fighting back from 0-3 down to beat Bolton 4-3 at Stamford Bridge. Consistency and some true form from players who are better than they have been playing are all Chelsea need to maintain their premier status.

McKenzie, the talented extrovert



FAR LEFT . . . Tottenham gave Ralph Coates (right) a free transfer to Orient at the start of the season. **LEFT . . .** Although Chelsea have their problems, they still have class players, such as Duncan McKenzie. **ABOVE . . .** Crystal Palace starlet Vince Hilaire (right) has provided the skills that have put them in the promotion chase.



LEFT . . . Arsenal, in action against Hajduk Split in the U.E.F.A. Cup, are London's main force for honours this season. ABOVE, LEFT . . . West Ham's Bryan's Robson (right) causes a few problems in the Notts County defence. That sort of pressure has put The Hammers amongst the leaders of the Second Division. ABOVE . . . Bobby Campbell of Fulham has shaken the football world with his achievements. RIGHT . . . Derek Hales (right) and Mike Flanagan are together again at Charlton.

signed from Everton, has no doubts about the potential of his new team-mates. He said: "I was choked when I injured my arm playing against W.B.A., because I wanted to contribute to the team's early games. But while I admit we have struggled to show our best form, the talent is there. Some of the young players at Chelsea have bags of natural skill."

By the looks of the Second Division table, London could launch a whole new crop of teams on the First Division next season. Nobody

your opponents playing away from home.

He said: "We must overcome the fact teams come to our place content to pinch a point. In the First Division you get more room to play because teams are prepared to come out and compete. But when you see seven and eight men lined-up around their area after ten minutes play you know you must push men forward yet guard against leaving yourself too open at the back.

"But I believe attacking football



skill of Martin Robinson and Mike Flanagan up-front. Plus, of course, Derek Hales who will add to Charlton's fire-power when he recovers from injury.

London's three strugglers, Orient, Millwall and Brentford, have the consolation of knowing the season still has a long way to go. But while Orient and Brentford have recorded an encouraging number of wins, Millwall are in dire trouble at the foot of the Second Division.

Manager George Petchey said: "We have played well in a number of home games this season, yet come away with nothing. I suppose you could say we have not yet got a decent run of the ball. But we also make some silly mistakes and miss chances which stem from good build-ups."

"But we have loyal and enthusiastic supporters and I am determined to maintain Second Division status for their sakes."

Orient boss Jimmy Bloomfield has strengthened his team with ex-Spurs Ian Moores and Ralph Coates. Without doubt, Orient possess the players capable of establishing a sound mid-table position, none more impressive at the moment than Republic or Ireland international Tony Greasham.

And over at Griffin Park, Bill Dodgin's Brentford are beginning to show signs of coming to terms with Third Division football after a worrying start.

Just when they seem destined to slide all the way to the bottom, Brentford win in style and bolster confidence.

Dodgin knows confidence will

FROM 'THE SMOKE'

is surprised by the rapid strides made by Crystal Palace under Terry Venables, but the unexpected surges by Fulham and Charlton have raised some eyebrows. And with West Ham making the impression a team of their calibre should make, it all augurs well.

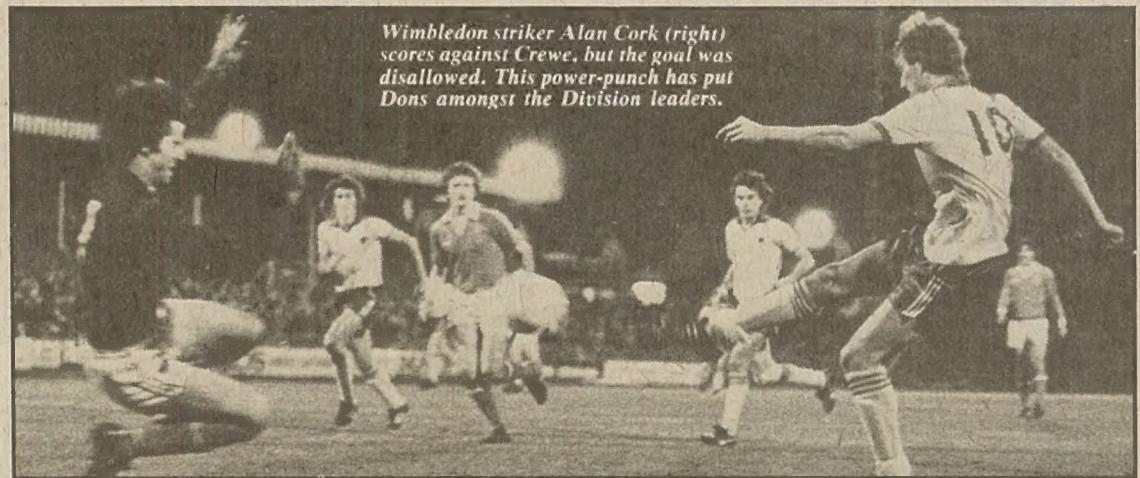
Venables and his marvellous Palace youngsters have combined silken skills with steel, much to the surprise of those teams who expected to be able to boot the Palace prodigies from goal-mouth to corner-flag.

Venables said: "People have been crying out for players with skill, who can entertain. We have them. Now it is up to the game to protect them from brutal treatment. You expect knocks in football, but some of the stick dished out to the lads is frightening."

"We can look after ourselves when it comes to fighting for possession. I have told the players you must want to win all the time.

"Yet when I look around the dressing-room, that is also frightening. They are so young and so inexperienced compared with lots of their opponents. What they can achieve is the most frightening thing of all."

Over at West Ham, John Lyall refuses to bow to the demands of a Division where it appears customary to play at home and stop



Wimbledon striker Alan Cork (right) scores against Crewe, but the goal was disallowed. This power-punch has put Dons amongst the Division leaders.

will always triumph in the end. And we shall continue to play that kind of football. Our fans have been weaned on it and have come to expect it. They are right, too."

Bobby Campbell's achievement in turning a shambles of a situation at Craven Cottage into a remarkable success story deserves an award on its own.

The witty Scouse has overcome boardroom squabbles, financial headaches and the reality of having to sell many of his experienced players to balance the books and produced a young, exciting team

currently shocking the rest of their Division by going for the jugular at home and away.

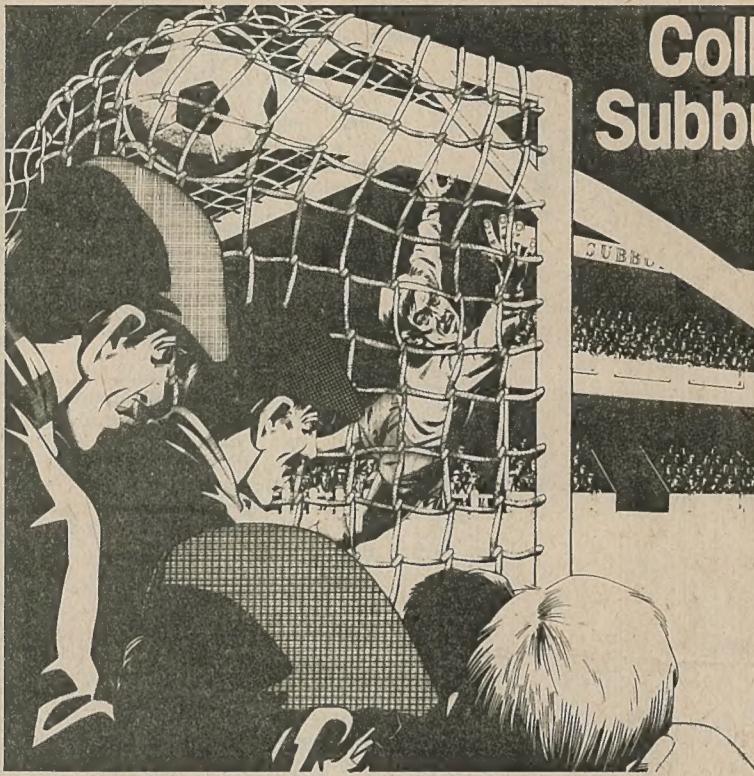
John Beck's arrival from Coventry, the fine form of Richard Money and Tony Gale in defence, the confidence of Gerry Peyton in goal and the target qualities of big Chris Guthrie up-front all combine to make Fulham a good outside bet for a place in the top three, come next May.

Andy Nelson has also taken many people by surprise with his Charlton team. But no small part of The Valley revival is due to the

play a big part as the season unfolds in to the New Year.

Wimbledon, who survived their first season in the Football League in what they have every right to consider as style, are now taking their new surrounds by storm and look in the kind of mood to emulate the feats of other 'new arrivals' such as Peterborough, Cambridge United, Hereford and Oxford, who all marched in to the Third Division.

Dario Gradi has worked wonders at Plough Lane since taking over from Allen Batsford last season.



Collect these super Subbuteo accessories

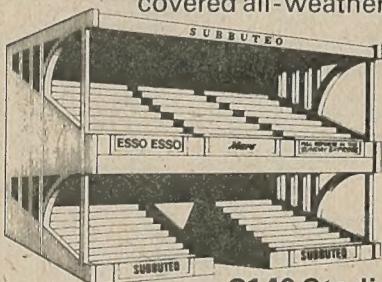


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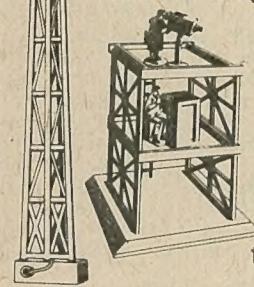
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WHEN Jimmy Adamson was manager of Burnley in the early 1960's, he promised he'd make them "the team of the '70s, taking over from Liverpool and Leeds."

The fact Adamson has now become the manager of Leeds seems like if you can't beat them, join them.

He doesn't see it like that. Says Adamson: "If I hadn't had to sell all the best players at Burnley to survive, we might well have become the team of the Seventies."

"I'm talking about players like Martin Dobson, Leighton James and David Thomas. All these players I had to sell."

After spending 29 years at Turf Moor as player, coach and finally manager, Adamson moved on to try and awaken the sleeping giant of Sunderland. But he says the ghost of Brian Clough drove him out.

"He's their big hero up there and when they got me they weren't satisfied. I couldn't stop them going down in my first year. And when I didn't get them straight up again, the fans started 'Adamson out' chants.

"As a manager, I expect criticism when things go wrong. But it had a terrible effect on the young players. They became afraid to play at Roker Park. They froze at home.

"They say the Sunderland fans are worth a goal start, which is true when things are going well. But at other times, they can be worth a two-goal start to the opposition."

New manager: JIMMY ADAMSON declares himself:

'I want to see Leeds win first and entertain second'

"If Clough does ever go there, they'll get crowds of 40-50,000, and if things go wrong they won't blame him. They'll blame the players, the directors, the staff. Anyone but Clough."

"Until the Sunderland supporters forget Clough, no other manager is going to have much of a chance at Sunderland. I would have liked to have stayed and

finished the job, but when the Leeds job came up, I decided to leave."

At Elland Road, Adamson could be in danger of bumping into the ghost of Don Revie, but he doesn't see that as a problem.

"There have been a few managers at Leeds since then so I don't see I'll be compared to him. I rate Don Revie as one of the most

Jimmy Adamson (bottom of page, left) is greeted by Leeds deputy chairman Bob Roberts. United's John Hawley (below) salutes Leeds goal in their 1-1 draw at Liverpool. Adamson has inherited the silky skills of Tony Currie (left).



successful managers we've had in the British game.

"So much of what you achieve as a manager can depend on what you inherit when you take over a club. When you come here, as I have, and inherit players like Tony Currie, it's a bonus. But Don inherited badly when he arrived at Leeds and the club were struggling near the foot of the Second Division. But in no time at all, he had them in the First and winning things."

Adamson doesn't think it strange the two men he admires most — Revie and Ron Greenwood — represent totally different football philosophies.

"I support both. Don was the sort of man, who if he needed to get a result badly away from home, he'd put the shutters up and feel no qualms about it. In the same situation, Ron Greenwood would be more likely to say, 'if we're going to be defeated, let's lose playing entertaining football'.

"These days, though, people don't always want entertaining. They want to win. And a lot of them would rather see their side play badly and win 1-0 than play well and get beaten.

"It's sad, but the game is more of a business now. As a professional, I have to go along with that. I want to see Leeds win first, and entertain second."

"I have a philosophy of my own. Attack if you can, defend if you must. In other words, you do the positive, attacking things first. But you can't neglect your defensive duties."

He believes three years is long enough for any manager to prove himself capable of building a winning side, and that's the length of his contract at Leeds.

"If I've a successful side at the end of that time, I might get another contract. If not, I expect to be shown the door."

'UNITED'

— not a great side, but we'll qualify for Europe'

says JOE JORDAN

THE argument as to who is Scotland's best centre-forward, Joe Jordan (right) or Andy Gray, will probably rage for some time yet — and now Jock Stein has taken over the tartan clan he obviously has his own views on the subject.

But it's worth bearing in mind the tenacious Jordan is determined to answer those critics who accuse him of not scoring enough goals.

Whenever the Gray or Jordan issue has been discussed the prime factor against Jordan has always been his mediocre goal-scoring rate in comparison to Gray.

Yet so far this season Jordan has maintained a very respectable average which reached its peak when he netted in three successive matches.

"I'm conscious people have been saying I don't get enough goals, yet I think if you look at my record with Scotland in particular you'll find it's not all that bad," says the modest Jordan.

As the man in possession of the number nine shirt in recent Scotland internationals, Jordan has indeed done quite well. He has scored goals in two World Cup



Final round matches, and seems to thrive on the big occasion.

What has never been in question is his usefulness in attack because

of his fierce determination and his ability to create goals for others.

"It's true I'm trying to sharpen up in front of goal, but there's an awful lot of luck in goalscoring. You can have a bad day and still get a hat-trick, or be absolutely brilliant and end up with nothing to show for it.

"This season I've already got four or five goals — I never know how many because I'm not one for statistics — but it could have been double or three times that amount."

Millions of television viewers who saw Jimmy Rimmer's brilliant reflex save from a real Jordan stinger at Villa Park recently would vouch for that.

What about the United side?

"Well, I don't honestly think we're a brilliant side, but we aren't a soft touch for anyone, and this United side is probably a lot harder to beat than the one of a couple of years ago."

"It's taken a little time for Gordon McQueen and myself to settle into United's style, but we're a nicely shaped team now with no prima donnas — just a lot of hard workers.

"Both Gordon and myself have always given 100 per cent effort whether it's been for St Mirren, Morton, Leeds, Scotland or Manchester United, and the same can be said of lads like Lou Macari, Jimmy Greenhoff, Sammy McIlroy and Steve Coppell.

"Although we may be some way from being a great side I think we'll finish in the top half-dozen and qualify for Europe again," says Jordan.

NEWS

Compiled by Peter Stewart



DESK

FACTastic

FOUR goalkeepers in four successive games. That happened to Hartlepool during the 1971-72 season. They were Barry Noble, Mick Gadsby, Eddie Nisbet and finally Ron Hillyard making his debut after his transfer from York City. At the end of that season all four left Hartlepool who signed Barry Watling from Notts County — and he played in all 46 Division Four games during the 1972-73 season.

UNDER

THE Scottish League are under fire following their decision to play the Scottish League Cup Final on December 23 . . . just two days before Christmas Day.

Clubs are unhappy because that particular Saturday — when it has come round to match day — has always had low attendances because of the Christ-



'I'M UNIQUE'

says CLOUGH

NO APOLOGIES for mentioning Brian Clough (above) yet again because, well . . . he IS unique. My colleagues on SHOOT have told me about the standing ovation The Forest boss has received at away grounds. When the Champions visited Spurs, the home fans applauded Cloughie to his place in the dug-out. I can't ever remember a visiting manager receive such acclaim.

And if you thought matches were won on Saturdays, you were wrong. Over to Clough's partner Peter Taylor, "We win games between Monday and Friday. It's what we do in training that counts."

"Not just telling our players what to do, but why they must do these things.

And Clough, himself, "Am I unique? I'm me, nothing more. Yes, I like winning. Not 2-1 or 3-1, though. I'm unhappy every time we concede a goal, even in victory. We talk about it in training and try and ensure it doesn't happen again."

'BOMBER' SMASHES ANOTHER ALBION RECORD

TONY Brown, the unassuming midfielder who two seasons ago set-up a record number of appearances in a West Bromwich shirt, is now the proud holder of another Albion record.

The 30-yarder he scored against Leeds at Elland Road on October 14th was Bomber's 209th League goal

WILLIAMS QUILTS — FOR NOW

COLCHESTER United full-back John Williams has turned his back on League soccer and quit to go into business.

Now 31, John was freed by the Third Division club in the summer and though he could have played a couple more seasons has decided to hang up his boots . . . for the time being.

He played in some 500 games for Watford and Colchester, but the coaching side of the game does not interest him.

But there is a good chance he will play as a part-timer — if his business interests permit.

ON 'WANTED' LISTS . . .

LUTON, Fulham and Notts County are three clubs keen on West Ham striker Billy Jennings, who is unhappy with reserve team football.

• • •
SUNDERLAND are among the clubs watching young Berwick Rangers midfielder Stuart Romaines.

• • •
MANCHESTER United have been showing an interest in Brighton's Republic of Ireland defender Mark Lawrenson. "But they are wasting their time," says manager Alan Mullery.

• • •
WEST Brom want Aston Villa striker John Deehan and are prepared to pay over £200,000 to get him.

THE history of Barnsley from 1887 to 1978 has now been compiled by Gleaville Firth. With a foreword by the club's player-manager Alan Clarke, this fascinating insight into the club includes results and appearances for every season, with 27 photos.

This 430-page History of Barnsley can be obtained by writing direct to the author at 10 Guildway, Todwick, Sheffield S31 0JN . . . price £2.95 plus 50p postage.



BIRMINGHAM City, with enough problems already, must be wondering what Bob Latchford (light strip) will have in store for them when they meet in the League on Saturday, December 9th. Since being sold by the Midlands club for a record £350,000 four years ago, Bob hasn't failed to score in at least one of the matches against his old club each season.



FIRE

mas shopping rush.

League secretary Tommy Maule said: "It is the decision of the committee and that's all there is to it."

Rangers and Celtic have been drawn against each other in the Semis so it could be the lowest "gate" ever for a major Cup Final in Scotland . . .

MILESTONE

ARTHUR Sutherland, long-serving secretary and general-manager of Chesterfield, passed a noteworthy milestone this month.

For it was just 40 years ago, on November 5, 1938, that Arthur, then a promising inside-forward, made his League debut for Chesterfield in a Second Division game against Plymouth Argyle.

Unfortunately, his playing career was cut short by the Second World War and then injury, but he was offered a chance to work in the club's office as assistant to secretary Eric Willey.

He has been secretary since 1958, and more recently added general-manager to his title.

Incidentally, in his time at Saltergate Arthur has worked with ten managers. Managers may come and go, but secretaries remain . . .

THERE may not be a Jim Callaghan or a Harold Wilson in the Football League at the moment, but Port Vale do have a Neville Chamberlain on their books!



WORRIED FUTCHERS

PAUL and Ron (right) Fitcher are a little worried about their futures at Manchester City.

Signed during the summer for combined fees totalling £460,000, neither have been able to command a regular first team place.

Paul has already been in to see manager Tony Book and "made my feelings known."

Tony Book said: "Paul is a class player and I have no intention of letting him go."

Despite denials, expect some movement from Maine Road, especially now they've signed another midfielder, Polish international Deyna.

TO save money from floodlighting, Aston Villa are kicking-off their reserve games at Villa Park at 2pm. Apparently, it can cost around £100 for electricity during a match.

Red Card

DURHAM F.A. have banned Gateshead manager Ray Wilkie from the touchline for the rest of the season.

Wilkie a former F.A. Amateur Cup-winning hero with Crook Town, was shown the red card after a match against Worksop.

A £30 fine on Gateshead did not affect the club's bank balance. Wilkie wrote out a cheque. An apologetic Wilkie had already decided a seat in the stand was less risky before the official punishment.

CELTIC'S new £100,000 signing Murdo MacLeod from Dumbarton is an ardent Rangers fan. In fact he could have joined the Light Blues in 1974.

He was offered terms but eventually decided on Dumbarton because the club gave him a better chance of regular first team football.

THREE players with something in common are Peter Shirliff (Sheffield Wednesday), Neil Cordice (Northampton) and David Stride (Chelsea). All suffered the humiliation of being booked on their League debuts.

SCOTLAND v. ARGENTINA

SCOTLAND will play World Championships Argentina at Hampden Park on June 2nd, next year . . . a week after the Wembley clash with England and five days before the European Championship tie in Norway.

Mind you, chances are the Argentina line-up could be much different from the one last June.

The player everyone wants to see is Mario Kempes and Scotland will have

their fingers crossed Valencia release him, which is unlikely.

Still, Tarantini and Ardiles should be released by their English clubs, while Villa will also come into the reckoning.

Whatever team Argentina field, it will be a memorable, sell-out occasion, but a warning to Scotland. The game they must win is not against Argentina or England, but Norway.



Showaddywaddy

ONE player who shouldn't have felt out-of-place at Liverpool's recording session last month is Alan Hansen.

The big centre-half was nicknamed "Showaddywaddy" during his days with Partick Thistle.

Defeat for England

BEFORE the Eire/England game last month, the respective journalists played a friendly in Dublin.

Despite the presence of Geoff Hurst and coach Bill Taylor in the English side, the Eire pen-pushers won 4-2.

MIKE Stead's £50,000 move from Tottenham to Southend ended the family connection at White Hart Lane.

Full-back Mike had joined the Spurs professional staff in November, 1974, and was later followed by brother Kevin, a striker who was given a free transfer last year and moved to Arsenal.

Mike, who had a loan period at Swindon last year, went to Southend in September and had two months there before he was finally taken on contract.

Billy's Big Match

TOTTENHAM will be fielding their full first team against West Ham at Upton Park next Monday (December 4th), for Billy Bonds' testimonial match.

A huge crowd is expected for the popular Hammers skipper who is playing better than ever this season in an effort to help drive the club back to the First Division.

Prices of admission will be as League matches. Kick-off 7.30.



GOAL-LINES

Send your letters to STEVE CARTER, GOAL-LINES, SHOOT!, IPC Magazines Ltd., King's Reach Tower, Stamford St., London SE1 9LS. £3 for the Star letter — £1.50 for every other letter published. When writing to us please mention the two features you liked best in the latest issue of SHOOT!

This week's Star Letter comes from Tom McKee of Belfast, who wins our Special Prize of £3. He writes:

IT'S THEIR LOSS...

HERE has been a lot of publicity about the failure of Rangers to sign a Roman Catholic player, even though the club stated publicly they would if they thought he was good enough. The critics say plenty must have been available, but...

We have a similar situation in the Irish League where Linfield have been a Protestant club with Protestant support; more recently, Glentoran have joined them as they haven't had a Catholic on their staff for over ten years.

These clubs have been labelled sectarian but, surely, if they feel they can do without the obvious qualities of the Catholic superstars then why not?

Usually, the critics are politicians, but as most people know, the Law of the land states a Roman Catholic shall never be King or Queen. Makes you think, doesn't it?

• The most important quality in any player is not his colour or religion — it's his skill. If certain clubs choose not to employ stars because they are Catholic, that is their loss and another club's gain.

Germans Like Football League

JOHN Martin, from Glasgow, wrote about the West German Bundesliga being the best in the world... better than the Football League.

The Bundesliga may have more stars, but 90 per cent of the League's managers said, in a poll, the English League is the Number One in the world.

Looking back on European clashes over the past five years between English and German clubs, England win 5-2.

Kevin Keegan is Man of the Match in nine out of ten of HSV's games.

GEORG GIFTTHALER,
WEST GERMANY.

• I think it's true to say the English and German Leagues are the two strongest in the world. English fans have admired the Germans over the past 15 years and it's good to see the Germans liking the Football League. Praise, indeed.

Contradiction

In October 21st's News Desk it was remarked Peter Bonetti of Chelsea was showing signs of slowing down and Ron Harris isn't the player he was. Two weeks later, in an article about Soccer Survivors, both Bonetti and Harris were praised for being "just as good as ever this season."

I'd like to know the reason for this contradiction.

KAY MULRANEY,
SWINDON.

• Simply the articles were written by different journalists.

Help Eddie

THIS is Eddie Gray's (below) Testimonial Season and we are compiling a book containing messages to the Leeds star from fans. We hope to present it to him on January 8th, so if anyone would like to contribute I'd be grateful.

LOUISE ORMSBY,
16 BURLEY CLOSE,
SOUTH MILFORD,
LEEDS LS25 5BT.



Pen-Pals

I AM originally from Essex, but I've lived in South Africa for 14 years. I'm looking for a pen-pal who supports Liverpool and is between 18 and 20. I'd prefer a girl as I find it easier to write to girls than boys! I collect stamps, like horse-riding, discos and rock music.

LOUISE BEWICK,
P.O. BOX 968,
FLORIDA,
TRANSVAAL,
SOUTH AFRICA 1710.

I am a 16-year-old boy who would like pen-pals from all over the world.

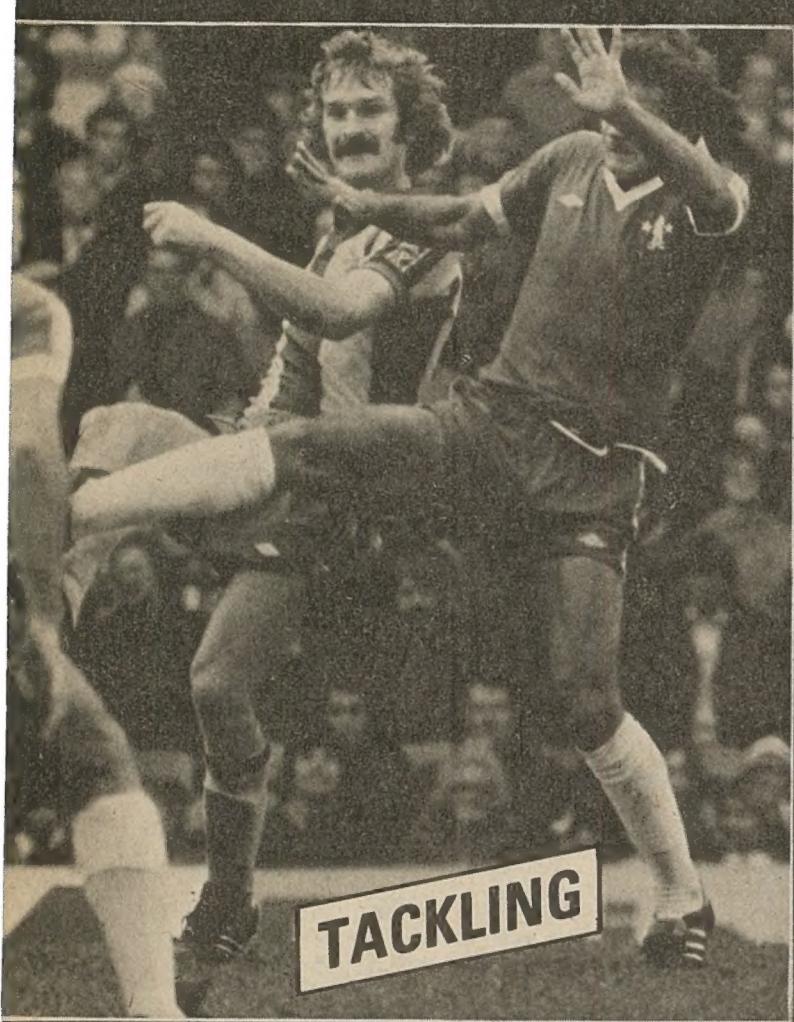
TONY HO,
BLK. 36, 407-D,
BEDOK SOUTH AVE. 2,
SINGAPORE 16.

The skills of RAY WILKINS



CONTROL... eyes on the ball as Ray receives a pass.

LEADERSHIP... Chelsea face a long battle against relegation and need the commanding figure of Ray in midfield.

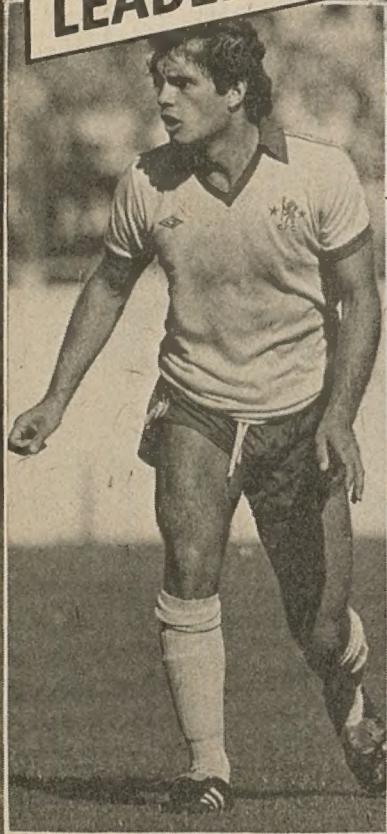


TACKLING . . . West Brom's Alistair Robertson finds out Ray can win the ball as well as use it.

INVOLVEMENT . . . always in the thick of the action, this time against Leeds.

Dribbling . . . off on another surge upfield for England.

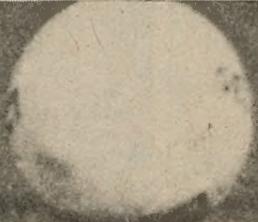
LEADERSHIP



INVOLVEMENT



Dribbling



THE Scottish international ambitions of Everton goalkeeper George Wood, looked like being put on ice — once again.

It seemed Wood, in outstanding form in the first quarter of Everton's 1978-79 League campaign, was unable to convince new Scottish team manager Jock Stein he was the man for the job.

Wood, now rated by many critics as the best Scottish 'keeper by far sat back while Alan Rough retained his number one job despite his problems in South America. That was frustrating for Wood but what followed was perhaps even more of a disappointment.

When Stein replaced Ally MacLeod as team boss, few fancied Rough's chances of retaining the job. Stein had been critical of the 'keeper's performances during the World Cup — and, as expected, Rough was dropped for Scotland's European Championship match against Norway.

But it was not George Wood who was called up but Middlesbrough goalkeeper Jim Stewart.

It was easy to understand Wood's frustration. Everton found some solid, consistent form in the

DELIGHTED

**GEORGE WOOD
(Everton)**

early months of this season — and much of the reason for that was down to Wood.

Says George: "I was very disappointed when Rough got in again for the European Championship match in Austria. I thought after the World Cup, I might get my chance. But it wasn't to be. I put it down to the fact that the first time Ally MacLeod saw me, we drew 4-4 with Newcastle at Goodison . . . and I didn't have a particularly happy day. But he did see me three times after that when I did much better.

"When Jock Stein took over, my hopes were raised. But I was then very upset not to be included in his squad for the game with Norway. Then came my call-up for the European Championship tie against Portugal and all the disappointments of the past were forgotten.

"Mind you, my boss, Gordon Lee, had told me I had to get a call from Scotland sometime if I kept



playing as I was. So I guess his advice has paid off. I'm 26 now and feel that I shall be getting near to my peak in two or three years' time.

"I started playing really well when I got settled in the last 12 matches of last season. It takes time for a goalkeeper to know his defence and vice-versa. But that spell last season was the key — I got right into it and played really well. And this season, I seem to have carried on from where I left off last year."

Wood feels that if Everton are going well, it must reflect, in some way, his own form. He goes on: "I feel that Everton are on the brink of great things. We are all determined to bring a trophy to Goodison this season for everyone involved — the club, the boss and especially the fans. They have all been so patient in waiting for some more success and we'd like to do it for them this season."

Apart from his ambition to establish himself as Scotland's goalkeeper, George desperately wants success with Everton.

As he says: "I owe everything to the club. But for Everton I would probably still be playing for

UNDER-RATED

BARRY DAINES (Spurs)



NOT many teams go to West Brom these days and escape a hammering, let alone win. But that's exactly what Tottenham did in early October when they triumphed 1-0 with a fine Peter Taylor opportunist goal.

And few would disagree with the after match comment from Spurs boss, Keith Burkinshaw, when he said: "I think Barry Daines was the difference between the two teams."

Yet the spectators at White Hart Lane have been cruel to Barry, so how does the 'keeper feel about it now?

"I try not to let it worry me," he says. "It does get on your back a little bit, but it's not all of them; it's only a section."

Does Barry think that he's silenced his critics after his stunning TV performance against the formidable and often ruthless Albion scoring machine?

"Let's put it this way. I hope I've

gone a long way towards it," he says. "For me it was a very enjoyable game. I just put it down to one of those days when everything went right."

Match-of-the-Day seems to suit Tottenham. Has the camera's eagle-eye helped Barry?

"I think so," he says. "It can work both ways really. I've had a few good games on television and I've had a few bad ones. I just hope that people will remember the good games."

Ironically, Daines first played for Tottenham in 1969 against West Brom. And for a long time was under-study to the great Pat Jennings.

"People used to say we didn't like each other," he says. "But we were the best of friends and he was a great inspiration to me."

Barry, 27, played nearly half a season for Tottenham in the relegation season, but firmly established himself in the number one spot when

ELATED

**GARY PIERCE
(Wolves)**

Huddersfield in season 1973-74 and played in the League Cup winning team of that campaign.

"Since then I've been in and out with a load of niggling injuries," he says. "But I never missed a match during our promotion run of 1976-77. Then in the summer I broke my wrist in the TV programme 'All in the Game' at Bristol . . . I won't be going there again in a hurry — that's for sure."

"I played the last ten reserve games last term just to cover for Paul Bradshaw, because Phil Parkes had left for America."

"During the close season a Birmingham specialist operated. But less than a month before the Arsenal match I thought my wrist had snapped again when we played Bolton reserves. It was in plaster for 36 hours,

"Sammy Chung our team-boss at the time never said anything until he Friday before when he did a complete re-shuffle and brought back Brazier, Hibbitt and myself. It took a long time to sink in and it felt every so strange. It was amazing really, because Paul Bradshaw played a blinder in our previous match at Nottingham Forest."

Gary, 26, joined Wolves from

Blackpool — and that would mean Third Division football. I left Bloomfield Road in August, 1977, and in just over a year have made tremendous progress. I have learned so much about the game at this level.

"I'm sad to see Blackpool where they are now. They were unlucky to go down and don't deserve to be there. But they have a largely inexperienced side and that could mean they will find it very difficult to get out of the Third Division."

So with Everton starting so well this season, life on Merseyside for goalkeeper Wood, is pretty good. But he adds: "To be honest playing regularly for Scotland is the peak I'm aiming for. Playing for his country must be every player's peak."

"As SHOOT pointed out recently, the goalkeeping spot has been Scotland's number one problem position over the years. If I can solve that problem and win a few honours with Everton along the way, I'll be the happiest player in the world."

"I've played the waiting game and won."

Jennings left for Arsenal. Were there any doubts in his mind that he was ever going to make it?

"I suppose somewhere along the line you think it is best to leave or is it best to stay. I tried to get away a couple of times, but didn't succeed. I'm glad I stayed now."

Last season Daines was voted by his fellow professionals as "The Second Division Goalkeeper of the Year" amid keen competition. And in his opinion — a view that's shared by many — the best 'keepers are those who make the least mistakes. He isn't the type of player who talks about himself. "I usually leave it to others to assess me," he said.

We think the best way of assessing Daines is that he's very underrated. Tottenham have had Jennings, Bill Brown and Ted Ditchburn, and he's stepped into a big set of shoes. He's had the hardest job of any 'keeper over the years and we think that's the burden he's carried on his broad back.

yet funny enough, I haven't felt a twinge since."

Gary has always been happy at Wolverhampton, except for a brief period when he thought it best to move on.

"I started to get into a rut," he says, "and that's not like me because I have to be bubbling all the time. But I couldn't see any way of getting back in the first team. I had a couple of

DISAPPOINTED

(Aston Villa)
JIMMY RIMMER

YOU couldn't call Jimmy Rimmer the luckiest man in the Football League. Rimmer, Aston Villa's popular goalkeeper, has had an amazing series of ups and downs throughout the last decade of his career.

It's now ten long years since Jimmy Rimmer sat on the substitute's bench at the 1968 European Cup Final at Wembley. His club Manchester United won their greatest honour that night — the mighty European Cup — and, as reserve 'keeper, Rimmer was part of the celebrations.

Picking up a European Cup winner's medal so early in his career, was a great honour for Rimmer. Yet strangely, one of the country's most consistent goalkeepers has not added to that honour with anything like the regularity you might have expected.

Rimmer was unfortunate with almost all his clubs. When he played for United, they were almost into decline after the great years of Best, Law, Crerand and Charlton.

When he moved to Highbury to join Arsenal, he was just too late to be involved in the Double winning side. And, like he had found at Old Trafford, Arsenal were in the process of re-building their side — and honours weren't there for a few years.

When Rimmer left Highbury for the Midlands, he again joined a club that was re-building. Villa had only recently regained their pride yet League titles and F.A. Cups were still some way off. And so it is, that ten years after European Cup glory, Jimmy Rimmer is still awaiting the chance to land regular honours in our national game.

Disappointed? Of course he is, but Jimmy has other compensations. "The fact is I've



played for possibly the three greatest clubs in England," he says.

"Liverpool is perhaps an exception but even then, when you go all over the world and say you've played for Manchester United, Arsenal and Aston Villa, people accept those clubs as the greatest in terms of tradition and success.

"Yes, it is a bit disappointing I haven't won more honours. I'd like to have won lots of F.A. Cups and League Championship titles. But I still regard one achievement as the greatest you can win in the game. I played for England against Italy, during the Bicentennial Tournament in America in 1976."

Rimmer, however, isn't short of ambitions. He says he'd love to win the F.A. Cup with Aston Villa

and believes Ron Saunders' side has a great chance of doing so in the next few years.

"We've been desperately unlucky with injuries in the past year," he says. "This season, we had as many as eight first choice players out injured at one time. That is hopeless if you want a settled side. But when everyone is fit, we have as good a squad as anyone in the land.

"You've got to have ambitions — without ambitions, you're wasting your time in professional football. And I've still got plenty. I believe I'm now 75% better as a goalkeeper than I was eight years ago. Your concentration gets better and better, your fitness is still there even as you get older and you have a vital asset for a goalkeeper — greater experience.

"Nevertheless, I'm still learning things. You're learning all the time when you're a goalkeeper. You learn to concentrate for the entire 90 minutes whereas when you're younger, you tend to find it difficult to concentrate for the whole game.

"When you're younger, you tend to rush around a lot more and fling yourself around the goal. But when you get towards your 30's, you have more experience of situations and can read the game better thereby making it unnecessary to do as much hectic rushing about.

"I hope to go on until I'm 36 or 37. You set yourself standards and I believe that with experience counting for so much in my position, a goalkeeper can still be world class when he's in his mid-30's. A player like West Germany's Sepp Maier proves that — and over here, Peter Bonetti has showed that."

Which club does Rimmer rate as the main rivals for Aston Villa, in their bid to land some top trophies in the next few years? "Liverpool, Manchester City who always seem able to buy top players and Manchester United. Those are the clubs that will provide the chief stumbling block to Villa."

transfer requests turned down. It wasn't that I wanted to leave. I simply wanted first team football.

"Paul Bradshaw is a tremendous 'keeper. I'm not just saying that because I work with him and we're competing for the same place. In another five years, who's going to stop him getting into the England side? The rest are all going to be in their Thirties and this lad's only going to be 27 and in his prime.

"Scoring goals has been our biggest problem this season. When we get in front, as in the Arsenal match where we grabbed a goal and won 1-0, then it's a great inspiration. The lads played brilliantly and they really battled. But in our next game at Middlesbrough we were hit by a goal in the first 15 minutes. Yet we had about four or five chances; they should have gone in, but they didn't.

"We're missing John Richards, because he's a natural goalscorer. If he could recover from injury, then it could all change. A player of that calibre has got to be missed."

"Sammy Chung has left and we are in trouble, but we keep smiling. There's always a laugh and a joke to ensure it doesn't get you completely down. With an atmosphere like we've got at Wolves, then there's no reason why we can't get out of trouble.

"We've no super stars, but what we do have is lads that will battle. We're trying so hard and things are not coming off, but that's what it's like when you're at the bottom."

"Sammy Chung was a magic fellow and we'll miss him. He took the backlash for our mistakes and paid the price of failure with his job. But if you are a manager and not getting the results, the pressure builds up and you take the can."

"But under new boss John Barnwell, Wolves are not going to laugh our way through, we're going to fight our way out of trouble."

"As I've said despite all the recent setbacks we're a happy club and know the size of task ahead of us."



yet funny enough, I haven't felt a twinge since."

Gary has always been happy at Wolverhampton, except for a brief period when he thought it best to move on.

"I started to get into a rut," he says, "and that's not like me because I have to be bubbling all the time. But I couldn't see any way of getting back in the first team. I had a couple of

The ten who have scored.



Paul Arcari, Southport, Lancs.
Chose the Man. Utd. strip.



David Main, Houghton-le-Spring, Tyne & Wear.
Chose the Spurs strip.



Deborah Ward, Charlton, London S.E.7.
Chose the England strip.



John Feeney, Walthamstow, London E.17.
Chose the Luton strip.



Neil Simpson, Leven, Fife.
Chose the West Ham strip.



John Wharton, Hull, Yorks.
Chose the Leeds strip.



Steven Hobson, Cheshunt, Herts.
Chose the Spurs strip.



Brian Skelhorn, Leyland, Lancs.
Chose the England strip.



Janet Mackie, Crail, Fife.
Chose the Dundee strip.



Kevin Wadsley, Barnetby, S. Humberside.
Chose the England strip.



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MORE TIPS FOR THE TOP

WITH three months of the season gone we reckon the time is ripe to look at some of the blossoming talents in our game—the youngsters who are beginning to make an impression.

Last season there was the exciting arrival of Cyrille Regis, the emergence of Steve Williams, the continued progress of Derek Statham.

Here are some of the new faces who have been impressing us:

BILLY WRIGHT — A young man with a famous name, a famous uncle and it seems a famous future.

Billy is now in the England Under-21 squad after less than 20 Football League appearances. He made his international debut in Copenhagen in September, and gave a most assured display.

At the end of October he experienced the very special atmosphere of a Merseyside derby for the first time, and was one of the most composed and immaculate players on the field.

His uncle Tommy, once a great Everton and England full-back himself, would have been proud of him.



BILLY WRIGHT

IAN EDWARDS



LES SEALEY

JOHN GREGORY



Billy has the right approach. He tries to improve certain aspects of his game every week, and is keen to add pace to his skills.

IAN EDWARDS may have been scoring his goals in the Third Division with Chester, but he did so with such regularity and style, that bigger clubs cannot help but take notice.

Although Malta may be a soft touch too, Ian is to be complimented on the way he took his four goals—not a bad debut!

Ian left West Brom to enjoy first team football with Chester, and the gamble reaped its reward until an injury sidelined him.

LES SEALEY is in the unfortunate position of being a good goalkeeper at a club where they already have one.

Coventry's Jim Blyth is himself one of the most improved players in the League, yet young Sealey is going to take some shifting and Blyth could be on the move.

Ray Clemence was tremendously impressed as he stood at the other end of the field admiring a string of splendid saves in the Coventry-Liverpool game, and if he keeps up the hard work, he could even succeed Ray in the England team one day.

JOHN GREGORY is one of those quiet types who go about their

jobs with a minimum of fuss, yet are invaluable to any club.

This season John has been shunted around because of Villa's appalling injury list, yet he has never complained, and has been as consistent as anyone.

He has scored some very useful goals, including two spectacular efforts against Manchester United, and has deservedly won recognition from Villa's fans to rank with the popularity of more famous names like Andy Gray and John Gidman.

GARRY BIRTLES could not have chosen a better time to make his mark at the highest level.

Even Brian Clough admitted Forest were having a thin time in attack after the sale of chief battering ram Peter Withe to



GARRY BIRTLES

RICHARD MONEY



Newcastle United.

Young Steve Elliott proved somewhat raw and it was being felt a huge half-million pound bid for a striker would have to be made, when young Birtles arrived almost as an after-thought.

He had made only one appearance last season, and had been passed over at the start of the term, but from the moment his goal sparked Liverpool's exit from the European Cup, Garry has not looked back, and is now in double figures, averaging a goal every two games.

RICHARD MONEY isn't the most famous name there's been at Fulham these past few years.

Yet among all the Bests, Mullerys, Moores and Marshs, this former Scunthorpe youngster can



VINCE HILAIRE

hold his head high.

He made an immediate impression on his arrival at Craven Cottage last season, and quickly won the attentions of Ron Greenwood.

This campaign he has been switched to more of a defensive role, and has been a revelation, inspiring the London club's somewhat surprising challenge to more fancied rivals.

VINCE HILAIRE is the new darling boy of one of those rivals, Crystal Palace.

This beautifully-balanced footballer glides over the grass with the grace of a ballet dancer, yet he is deceptively strong, with a good footballing brain and a potentially marvellous future.

Hilaire is benefiting at the moment from playing in a buoyant winning team. It'll be interesting to see if he's as effective when Palace experience harder times.

That could be said of all these youngsters and others like Swansea's Robbie James, Stoke's Sammy Irvine and Luton's Brian Stein, but we should all take encouragement from the fact the British game continues to breed such talent every year.

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Derby and Gordon have had their problems this season. Hopefully things will improve for both player and club.

**FOR
DERBY
COUNTY..**



GORDON HILL ON THE BALL

His earlier injury probably prevented Gordon earning a call-up for the England B squad for their game against Czechoslovakia in Prague. Here he shows his class in the B international v. West Germany back in February. Inspired by the skills of our star writer, England won 2-1.

FOR MANCHESTER
UNITED...

FOR
ENGLAND B...

FOR ENGLAND...

Top of page: Controversy still rages around Old Trafford. Should United have sold the man who was magic on the wing? Above: Gordon is determined to get back on the ball for the full England side against Luxembourg.

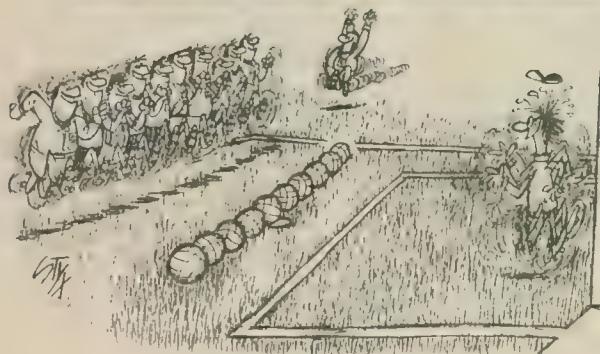


FOOTBALL PUNNIES

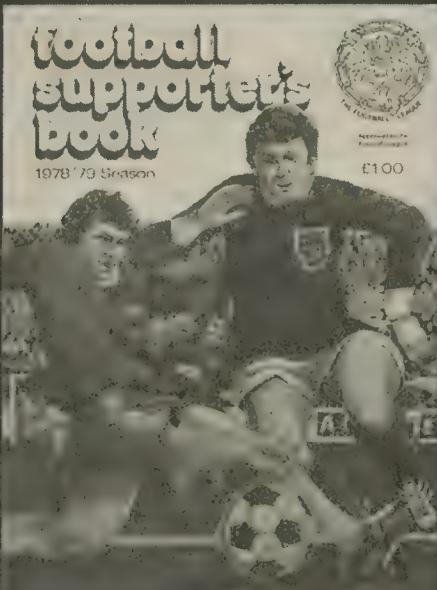
"I know we haven't lost a game in our last twelve outings, skip — but may I point out — we haven't won a game, either"



This week Luton Town's Brian Stein (left) and Bob Hatton select the jokes specially drawn by our cartoonist Styx.



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"Isn't he a modest player — apologised to me for only scoring five goals"



"Don't regard it as the sack, son — just one long suspension without pay"

ST4

'I CAN SCORE AWAY FROM HOME'

"IT'S a great feeling, but it hasn't gone to my head. In fact, it's brought me down to earth." Those were the words spoken by Bristol City's 19-year-old Kevin Mabbett after his sensational October hat-trick against Manchester United at Old Trafford.

"It's the first time I've scored away from home," he continues, "and it's made me think about a lot of things. I always thought it was hard to score on opponents' grounds. I know now it's not as difficult as everybody says it is and, after breaking my duck, I can get down to playing my natural game.

"They used to call me a home player. People were saying Kevin Mabbett can't play away, then all at once I grab three.

"It's perfectly true, I wasn't fully fit for the match. I had a test on the Friday and I played with my ankle strapped up. It was my fifth game of the season, so I wasn't in the side to start with. But team boss, Alan Dicks, has always kept faith with me and he's never left me out of the squad.

"Strangely enough when I was younger, I turned down the chance to join Manchester United in favour of staying at home and being with Bristol City where the family could keep an eye on me. When you go to the big lights anything can happen really, and to tell the truth I think I made the right decision.

"I know the clubs do their best to look after you and they try to make up for it, but there's still something missing when you leave home.

City's KEVIN MABBUTT silences the critics



"Once I decided to stay at Bristol, I opted for City. I left school and I was an apprentice for about three months. When I was 17 I signed a full contract."

"I'm right-footed, but I play on the left. The manager hasn't really given me a definite position, he's

simply said, 'Go out and play'.

"I've got the freedom of the park. I can go and do what I like. When we're attacking I'm with them and likewise when we're defending. I think the best description is I'm like the inside-forward of old.

"They still talk about the old inside-forwards, don't they? And everybody knows just how great they were.

"I played for England Schoolboys in a similar role and also the England Youth.

"My father inspired me. He played over 500 games for Bristol Rovers in a career spanning 14 years. He's still playing and he's player-manager in the Western League now."

Kevin made his debut last season against Nottingham Forest at The City Ground — his breakthrough game. "We lost 1-0 to a goal in the last minute," he says. "Then I kept my place in the side and I scored seven goals last term.

"I'm obviously happy at the club and we're starting to get experienced players here now — Joe Royle, Chris Garland, Norman Hunter and Terry Cooper. They've fitted in well and they're helping me and the local players. We've a nice blend of youth and experience and everybody's playing for each other. It's a friendly club and the local players have really taken to the incoming internationals.

"Joe Royle has helped me a tremendous amount. He's always encouraged me even when I've done things wrong. And when a player of his calibre talks to you the way he does, then it gives you

confidence, it makes you want to play.

"He set up all three goals for me at Old Trafford. He was the hero really. But it's a team effort and it doesn't matter who scores the goals as long as they go in.

"My ambitions? First of all I'd like to do well for Bristol City. It was the club I chose and it was a difficult decision to make. From there I'd love to get into the England Under-21's and in the future play for the big one — the full team."

FOR THE RECORD

KEVIN'S hat-trick against Manchester United — the first of the young striker's career — was also the first against the Old Trafford men since October 28, 1972.

Then the star, who went a goal better than Kevin, was Martin Peters. He scored all four for Tottenham in a 4-1 away win.

But the record for immunity from three-goal performances at their expense is held by Leeds United. No one has managed a hat-trick against them since April, 1968, when Peter Dobing did so for Stoke. And that stands as the only one against Leeds since they were promoted to the First Division in 1964.

At the other extreme the next hat-trick by a Rochdale player will be the first since January 16, 1970, when Hughen Riley was the three-goal hero of a Third Division home match against Brighton and Hove Albion.

ALTHOUGH the Rovers may well be regarded as the poorer relations of the city of Bristol, that doesn't mean to say they haven't got their dreams and aspirations down at Eastville.

Manager Bobby Campbell is rightly proud of his side and believes they could even be joining their more famous neighbours in the First Division next season.

"Admittedly I need to sign a couple of good players — and we need to start picking up points away from home — but given those two things I think we can make it," he says confidently.

Rovers have a marvellous home record, second only to Luton's this season, and after 24 goals in eight home matches you'd expect the crowds to be rolling up.

Sadly, however, despite the exploits of Paul Randall, Dave Staniforth and co, the average attendance at Eastville is bordering on 7,000 and that simply isn't good enough for a Second Division club — especially a reasonably successful one.

"I can't understand why the public don't support us more, but even City who are doing well in the First Division are only getting around 22,000, so perhaps it's something to do with tradition and the fact we've never really won any of the

'IT'S ALL IN THE MIND'

Believes Rovers' manager BOBBY CAMPBELL

major prizes between us in Bristol," says Campbell.

Rovers need at least 10,000 every home match to break even.

"We have a good set of players and I'm delighted we've improved our performances and the way we play since I took over," says the unassuming Scot who succeeded Don Megson last season, and who was a Chelsea and Scotland player and Dumbarton manager, before joining the Bristol staff.

"I firmly believe in positive, attacking football. It's like the boxer who gets in the first punch. If we can get the first goal, then the opponent has to get two.

"We play the same away from home as we do at Eastville, 4-2-4, and really we carve out as many chances on opponents' grounds as anybody in the League.

"For some strange reason we haven't been converting the chances on other people's grounds, but I tell the players it's all in the mind. The game's the same whether they're playing in Bristol, Newcastle or China.

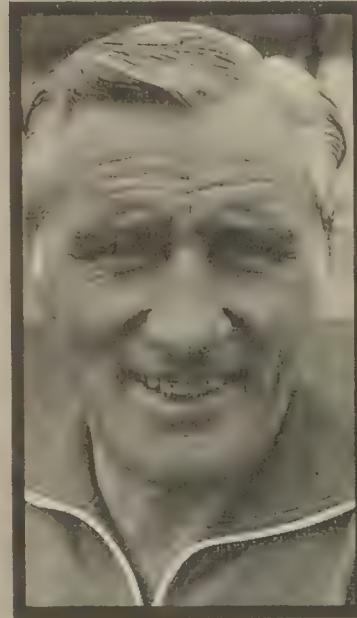
"Apart from the game at West Ham which we deserved to lose I

don't think we should have returned empty-handed from any ground this season.

"The goalkeeper was the man-of-the-match for Notts County when we played there, and we should have got something from our visits to Charlton and Oldham. Given those points we'd have been in the top three. As it is we're still in a very challenging position and I'm sure we're going to be rewarded away from home soon because we're playing such positive football."

Campbell is not only delighted by his own club's good start to the season but also by the way his City sparring partners are measuring up to their First Division life.

"It's good for Bristol and good for the game if we can keep abreast of one another near the top of our respective Divisions. Sure there's rivalry between the two camps, and sure we wish we had half of their following, but it's all very friendly down here. We're not country cousins any more, and I hope we can really put Bristol on the football map by joining them in the top Division next season."



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1972 LEAGUE CUP FINAL Salute to Stoke!

1971 F.A. CUP FINAL Arsenal v. Liverpool

1971 EURO CUP WINNERS Chelsea v. R. Madrid

1971 LEAGUE CUP FINAL Spur v. Aston Villa

1970 F.A. CUP FINAL Chelsea's Cup

1966/70 WORLD CUP Finals & Semi-Finals

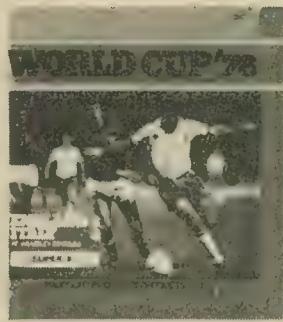
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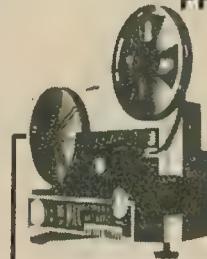
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- 1976 Scotland 2, England 1 200ft/400ft
also 400ft b/w SOUND

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also 400ft b/w SOUND

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- 1976 Rangers 3, Hearts 1 200ft/400ft
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- *1973 Rangers 3, Celtic 2 200ft

- *1972 Celtic 6, Hibs 1 100ft

By the time you read this another soccer manager will have been sacked.

That's inevitable as night following day, because statistics based over the past 15 months show every week at least one club parts with its manager.

One always has to consider, of course, every time a vacancy occurs a chain reaction can set in.

That's why, when a top job like the one at Leeds, or at Wolves, becomes available, it can mean at least half a dozen clubs getting a new boss.

Every club in the Football League is looking for the right man to lead them, and increasingly that man must already have proved himself at a high level in the game.

When Laurie McMenemy rejected both Leeds and Sunderland recently he made it clear he was not available for any club and he would be repaying loyalty to the club where he made his name, Southampton.

Yet whenever the next top vacancy occurs McMenemy will inevitably be linked with it because every club chairman in the country will think he has to try for the best no matter how much it will cost him.

Thankfully, the transferring of managers has not reached the proportion of player movement, but it may surprise you to know the 93 League clubs (including both Southport and Wigan) have between them employed 148 managers since the beginning of last season and in addition there are around half-a-dozen jobs up for grabs at the moment. No fewer than 45 clubs have made one change or more in that time.

Fascination

It may seem extraordinary in view of its precarious nature that there is always someone willing to take on some of these jobs yet the fascination of trying to achieve success with a club no matter how big or small will never die.

Jimmy Armfield (right) who shook hands with Leeds chairman Manny Cussins and said an amicable goodbye at the end of last season has not yet returned to the game in any capacity, other than as a journalist.

He has had plenty of offers and is giving advice to a couple of clubs, but having thought about the situation he says: "It would take a very good offer indeed to tempt me back into management."

"The club, the potential, and the people would have to be right, and even then you couldn't guarantee you'd still be in a job two years later."

Without bitterness Armfield can point to the fact he was sacked despite rebuilding a great Leeds side which had gone over the hill, taking the club to a European Cup Final, F.A. Cup Semi-Final and League Cup Semi-Final and never finishing below halfway in the First Division.

Most clubs would crave for that sort of record. Armfield firmly believes the best way of running a club is by having a general-manager in the Bertie Mee-Joe Mercer mould and a track-suit type like Don Howe or Malcolm Allison in his days with

A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE OFTEN MEANS THE SACK FOR A MANAGER

The casualty rate among Football League bosses since the beginning of last season.



Mercer at Manchester City

His view may well be shared by many, but in the lower Divisions at least it's a pattern that is unlikely to emerge, mainly because of financial considerations.

In a bid to keep their pay-rolls down a number of Third and Fourth Division clubs have opted for player-managers. Others have simply promoted the coach but in many instances it has proved false economy.

Jimmy Lawson, at Halifax this season, found the dual role of leading the team on the pitch and having the burdens of management off, too great a strain. He has now been replaced by George Kirby who was manager at The Shay at the turn of the decade.

Bradford City promoted former player and coach John Napier after relieving Bobby Kennedy of the job. Napier soon found he couldn't sleep at nights with the extra responsibilities, and after being talked out of resigning only a month into this season, he

eventually left it ten weeks later.

Peter Madden survived longer than any other manager for years at Darlington — a notoriously short stopping place — but even he found the task too much a few weeks back and so The Feethams directors start yet another search.

Sammy Chung became the 11th manager either to get the bullet or simply pack it in since the start of the season and that means the average of a new manager every week is being maintained this term.

Normally one expects the early days of a campaign to be the most stable of the year, simply because even the most restless clubs have to give a man a chance at the start of a new season.

Yet in the space of 12 weeks, 11 clubs had either decided they have not got the right man, or else had been caught up in the chain and lost the man they had.

Such a man was Jimmy Adamson at Sunderland. His move to Leeds to replace Jock Stein came only 45 days after The Big Man had finally come down from

his beloved Scotland to manage an English club for the first time.

Within hours of Adamson leaving Roker Park the gossips were having a feast with at least a dozen names, headed by Clough and McMenemy leading the candidates to take over.

Yet some of the more interesting changes take place in the lower Divisions where the cry for success is just as heart felt.

Blackburn Rovers, having enjoyed their best season for years under Jim Smith, lost him at a critical moment to Birmingham. They consequently missed out on promotion and have sacked Smith's replacement Jim Iley, and Smith himself has had nothing but trouble at Birmingham.

There's a joke in football the worst thing that can happen to a manager is to get a vote of confidence from his board of directors.

That often means they're thinking of sacking him, and that's exactly what happened to Jimmy Andrews at Cardiff City.

The white haired Andrews knew he had survived one touch and go moment when his boys won the important local scalp of Wrexham, yet within a month he had been told to collect his cards.

The same Jimmy Andrews that dug deep into his own trouser pockets last season to help the club out of its financial grave.

Huddersfield Town can be forgiven for ringing the changes a little having plunged head-long down the League in record time, and they certainly deliberated long and hard before giving the job to Mick Buxton.

On Trial

Having bid farewell to Tom Johnston for the third time soon after the start of the season they let Buxton, a former Burnley player and their own coach, carry on in the knowledge they were looking for someone else.

However they put Buxton on trial at the same time and after two months in the job he had impressed sufficiently to get the post on a permanent basis.

The thin dividing line between success and failure is best illustrated by the fortunes of John Barnwell.

In his first season as manager of Peterborough he missed leading them into the Second Division by a whisker. Preston pipped them only on goal difference. Yet Posh have found similar success hard to emulate this time — perhaps a bit of reaction — and Barnwell walked out.

He is back with Wolves, of course, but it is doubtful if we'll ever see Willie Bell in a manager's chair again.

The former Leeds full-back lost his job with Birmingham last season and then tried to make a go of it with Lincoln City. But he has now turned his back on the game altogether.

After a string of depressing results, Willie, a very religious and honest man, could take no more. He has now gone to work for a Christian organisation in America, retaining his football interests by managing a youth team.

In all honesty who can blame him?

WEST GERMANY GOAL ACE CAN'T SCORE!

KLAUS FISCHER (below), captain of Schalke 04, the striker tipped as the next Gerd Muller, is struggling. In 1977, Fischer burst on to the international scene and looked as if he was the answer to West Germany's centre-forward problem.

However, Fischer had a nightmare World Cup and little has gone right for him since. At the end of October, he netted his first Bundesliga goal for two months, while the table below shows how he has slipped in the international rating.

1977	1978
27/4 N Ireland (5-0)	2 goals
30/4 Yugoslavia (2-1)	8/3 USSR (1-0)
5/6 Argentina (3-1)	5/4 Brazil (0-1)
12/6 Brazil (1-1)	19/4 Sweden (1-3)
14/6 Mexico (2-2)	1/6 Poland (0-0)
7/9 Finland (1-0)	2 goals 6/6 Mexico (6-0)
8/10 Italy (2-1)	1 goal 10/6 Tunisia (0-0)
16/11 Switzerland (4-1)	14/6 Italy (0-0)
14/12 Wales (1-1)	21/6 Austria (2-3)
9 GAMES	11 GOALS
	9 GAMES
	NO GOALS



Be(s)tis yet!

SPAIN'S "de luxe" Second Division leaders *Betis* (they've got no fewer than six internationals in their side) have already set one new record since they dropped to the lower Division. Their goalkeeper, *Esnaola*, kept the scoresheet blank for the first 602 minutes of League football this season before he was finally beaten in the 62nd minute of the side's 4-1 win against *Algeciras*.

YOU'VE heard of red cards and yellow cards, but the blue card could also be on the way. In Uruguay the authorities have started experiments with the blue card and will be sending the results to F.I.F.A. for study. If a player is shown the new blue card he must leave the field for a period of ten minutes.

WORLDWIDE

COMPILED BY

CHRIS DAVIES

NEW COSMOS STARS

IRANIAN World Cup star Eskandarian has signed for the Cosmos. He is 26, has 35 full caps and will be remembered by Scotland fans as the player who scored an own-goal against them in the 1-1 draw in Argentina.

The Cosmos have also signed Solomon Hilton a 19-year-old forward born in Sierra Leone, who came to the States six years ago and scored 69 goals in three seasons for Yonkers High School.

GERD Zimmerman, the stopper of *Fortuna Dusseldorf*, has a reputation for being difficult to go past, and this is now spreading to his performances on the German autobahns. He was recently involved in an accident near Cologne that resulted in his car being a write-off. The fourth car he has destroyed in accidents during the last year.

NO SOCCER ON SPANISH TV?

IN SPAIN there's a row brewing between First Division clubs and RTVE, the national T.V. network. Up to now, a whole match has been televised live at 8 p.m. on Sundays, and of course few fans actually turn out to watch the match when they can watch it free in their armchairs at home.

The clubs are now saying the fees paid by RTVE aren't high enough to make up for this loss of gate receipts, and they're also angry the two Madrid "giants", *Real* and *Atletico*, receive more than anyone else (about £35,000).

A complete ban on live transmissions is being discussed, and Spanish fans could soon be without their traditional Sunday evening entertainment.

Not welcome

BARCELONA have insisted on an unusual clause being inserted in the transfer agreement with *Rayo Vallecano* for the transfer of Barcelona's striker *Manolo Clares* (below). They've stipulated he's never to play again in Barcelona's Nou Camp stadium!

Incidentally, they've let *Clares* go for a mere £15,000, even though the 30-year-old striker has been the club's leading scorer for three out of the last four seasons.



HOENESS LOANED

BAYERN Munich midfielder Uli Hoeneß has joined 1.F.C. Nuremberg on loan until the end of the season. The club paid Bayern £35,000 for this, yet in Uli's home debut so many extra fans turned up the fee was recouped immediately.

Unfortunately for Nuremberg, they still lost 2-3 to Schalke 04 and are one from bottom in the Bundesliga.

• Picture shows Hoeneß (right) in action against Schalke defender Russmann.



UNLUCKY 13?

ATLETICO Madrid have signed Hungarian manager Ferenc Szusza to replace *Hector Nunez*, the man they sacked after only five games.

Until 18 months ago, Szusza was in Spain, managing *Real Betis*, but was then mysteriously recalled by the Hungarian authorities. Now it seems he's got permission to leave the country again, and has gleefully accepted the £70,000 basic salary Atletico are offering.

Mind you, Szusza can't be all that confident of a long stay at Atletico — he's their 13th manager in the last 12 seasons!

Incidentally, a couple of weeks ago I reported Atletico Madrid had suspended their Brazilian ace *Luiz Pereira* for four matches. Well, the 29-year-old sweeper didn't complete his ban. The club hurriedly recalled him into action when they found he had gained nine pounds in weight in the first ten days of his suspension!

WORLD CUP REPEAT

THE Buenos Aires streets took on some of their World Cup fervour again when *Ferro Carril Oeste* fans spent a whole weekend celebrating their team's 4-2 win against *Tigre*. The victory assured *Ferro* of the Second Division Championship and a return to the top flight after just one season in the lower Division. *Almirante Brown* had been League Leaders for most of the season, but faltered at the end while *Ferro* went from strength to strength.

RUSSIANS WIPED OUT

HOW are the mighty fallen! Official U.E.F.A. statistics show the most consistent "point-getters" in European competitions over the last four years are the West Germans, followed by the Dutch, the Belgians, the Spaniards and the Russians, with England in sixth place.

The Germans have certainly done well yet again this season, and the Spaniards haven't fared too badly.

But just look at the results of the other European "big guns". In Holland, only *Ajax* survived the first two rounds; four of the five Belgian clubs have been eliminated; and the Russians have been completely wiped out in next to no time.

Incidentally, *Rangers*' good results may help Scotland to improve on their current 18th position in the European table.



SOME GOODBYE!

JOHAN Cruyff with his Ajax team-mates before his testimonial against Bayern Munich last month. Cruyff wore his famous number 14 shirt again, but Ajax amazingly lost 0-8. Some farewell!

My own view is Johan will do a Frank Sinatra, who's had more comebacks than he can remember! I expect Cruyff to be playing for the Cosmos next year.

PLAYER POWER

PAUL Breitner, the brilliant but controversial star of Bayern Munich, looks like forcing coach Gyula Lorant from the club. Lorant isn't playing Uli Hoeneß (who is on loan to Nuremberg, see story opposite page), but Hoeneß is a close friend of Breitner and Paul has criticised his boss's team selection. Breitner wants Udo Lattek (now Borussia Mönchengladbach) to return. The Germans say there can only be one winner: Breitner cost Bayern around £500,000, Lorant just £125,000 for his contract.

REFEREE Cornet was about to toss-up before the Belgian Second Division game between Diest and VK Mechelen . . . when he ran back to the dressing-room. Not to spend a penny, but to find one — he'd left his coin behind!

Diest midfielder Keynan was in the news, too, when they played SC Hasselt. Before the game, he told his team-mates they'd have no trouble as the referee was the landlord of his local pub.

No trouble? Diest lost 2-1 . . . and Keynan was sent-off! Something to talk about down the pub, anyway!

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WILL HOOLIGANS SPOIL DREAM FINAL?

IT WOULD be marvellous to think Nottingham Forest and Rangers could meet in the Final of the European Cup. While I'm not suggesting the draw is fixed, U.E.F.A. certainly won't want thousands of British fans travelling to Munich bearing in mind the dreadful record of violence our fans have.

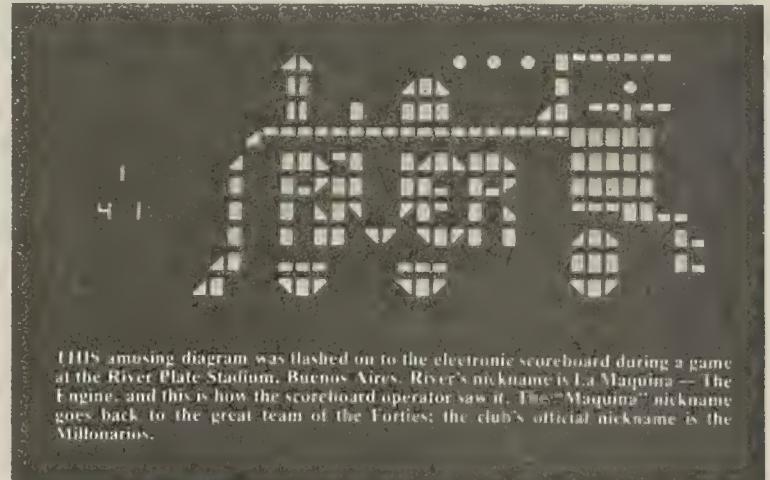
The shame is it's the weakest European Cup I can remember. The standard of football in Europe, both at club and international level, is at its lowest ebb for years.

If they're kept apart, Forest and Rangers should "eat" the rest of the opposition; I just hope they have the chance to do so and meet in West Germany next May.

A NEW-LOOK, bearded Uli Stielike is now back in action for Real Madrid after being sidelined for a month with a strange disease called Mononucleosis. It's familiarly known as "the lovers' disease" because it's thought to be passed on by kissing, and maybe Uli picked up the bug while celebrating one of Real's goals.

ST.-ETIENNE'S challenge at the top of the French League faltered when they lost 1-3 at home to Bordeaux. Up till then, "Les Verts" hadn't dropped a point at home, and Bordeaux had managed only six goals in eight away games!

Meanwhile Racing Strasbourg preserved their three-point lead over last season's Champions, AS Monaco, with an impressive 3-0 win against AS Nancy.



THIS amusing diagram was flashed on to the electronic scoreboard during a game at the River Plate Stadium, Buenos Aires. River's nickname is La Maguina — The Engine, and this is how the scoreboard operator saw it. The "Maguina" nickname goes back to the great team of the Forties; the club's official nickname is the Millonarios.

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A NEW JOB FOR BOB



JUST over two years ago, striker Bob Lee became Sunderland's most expensive signing when the Roker club took him from Leicester City for £200,000. Now he is set to make a name for himself in another department — in midfield.

Lee's switch in positions was made at the end of September at a time when the fortunes of the ex-Leicester man seemed at their lowest ebb, with a big question mark hanging over his future on Wearside. And Bob's ability to fit into his new role surprised those fans who had looked upon him as an out-and-out goal-getter.

"I've never regarded myself solely as a scorer," said Lee. "At Leicester, I liked to reckon on getting 15 goals a season, but also felt I made a few as well. Also, I had a little experience as a midfield player with Leicester reserves in my early days.

"Here at Roker, I'm used in an attacking midfield role, not a defensive one, which means I am often pushing forward during a match. And I can honestly say at the moment I haven't any preference for playing in midfield as compared to being up-front. All I can do is wait and see how things work out for me in my new position.

"But I'm happy I did well enough in my opening matches in midfield,

where Mick Docherty, our skipper, set a good example with his own performances."

In September, 1976, when Lee was transferred to Sunderland, the North-East club was struggling to make an impact in the First Division.

"I came to Roker at a difficult time," recalls Bob. "We found ourselves in the relegation zone, then later in the season made our fight-back to stay in the top class. And it was in the early stages of our great rally I achieved the greatest thrill of my career so far. I scored three out of Sunderland's six goals against West Brom.

'Uphill Battle'

"We went on to pick up more and more points, and people were beginning to think we would win our uphill battle against relegation. But eventually, we just failed, and that was the biggest disappointment I had experienced in the game.

"And last season in the Second Division found us trying to adjust with a young team, and from what we learned then, hope to do better this term. But Christmas will be the deciding time.

"Up to now, I believe the only teams who have been outstanding in the Second Division are Stoke

and Crystal Palace. The rest are still sorting themselves out, which is why I think that Sunderland will only know if they are in with a promotion chance around the end of the year.

"By then, we will have to have gathered a respectable number of points, which would give us a base from which to launch a promotion drive."

Bob Lee is very much a player of the Seventies, having made a brief appearance in Leicester City's League eleven in 1971-72 season, and becoming City's top scorer in his last full season with them before his move to Sunderland. And in the spirit of the Seventies, Bob could develop into the sort of mobile player who is effective in more than one position, the type who is sought after today.

At Liverpool, former striker Ray Kennedy made a big success of his conversion from centre-forward to midfield man, becoming a key player at Anfield.

Like Kennedy, Lee is a big man — and nothing would please him more than to become a similar important member of the Sunderland team.

"My ambition is for Sunderland to be promoted to the First Division," says Bob. "And for me to be in the side when they do it."

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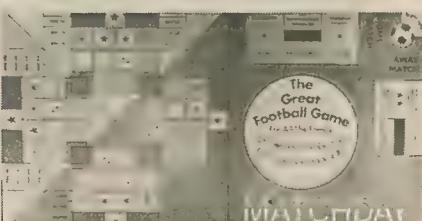
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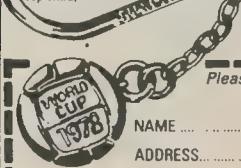
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BIG MATCH

CROSSTALK

between Viv Anderson (Forest) and John Phillips (Chelsea)



NOTTINGHAM FOREST v. CHELSEA
Saturday December 2nd

PHILLIPS: Our players will go into this match with the knowledge we are something of a bogey team to Forest. And I feel our morale is boosted by this.

ANDERSON: Yes, I'll admit in the past Chelsea have been a bit of a problem to us. But we won't feel there is any pressure on us, and we have the advantage of being at home.

PHILLIPS: Judged on the way Chelsea have been playing this season, Viv, we've a chance of doing better away from home. Though I remember we beat you 1-0 in the previous meeting between us at Stamford Bridge.

ANDERSON: I'm hoping Forest will do better than that at the City Ground, John, and it should be an attacking game. We have players like John Robertson, and Tony Woodcock, who like to go forward.

PHILLIPS: Attacking is what Chelsea does best, and in Duncan McKenzie, we've a player who is very dangerous in the penalty-area — if we can get the balls up to him, he is capable of adding the finishing touches.

ANDERSON: When Duncan was with Nottingham Forest, I played in half a dozen matches with him. It was enough to know he is a very good player, and needs to be carefully watched. Our job is to try to stop him getting among the goals.

PHILLIPS: If this game follows the



JOHN PHILLIPS



VIV ANDERSON

pattern of the previous matches between Forest and Chelsea, it could end up 1-1 or 2-1 — certainly I don't anticipate a goal rush.

ANDERSON: What I look forward to is a tough game, though in our position in the League, this is nothing new to us. My attitude is there is no strain in being up at the top, but at the same time, none of our players are over-confident — especially against Chelsea. I notice you gave Everton and Liverpool hard matches on their grounds.

PHILLIPS: Yes we did well and although we lost 2-0 against Liverpool, we were in with a chance until they scored their second goal late on. But our form against these two leading sides convinced me Chelsea have the potential to climb away from the bottom end of the table.

ANDERSON: As far as I'm concerned, our respective positions in the League have no bearing at all on the match between Forest and Chelsea. And I wouldn't try to pre-

Forest 'keeper Peter Shilton saves from Chelsea striker Trevor Aylott during their clash at Stamford Bridge last season.

dict the result.

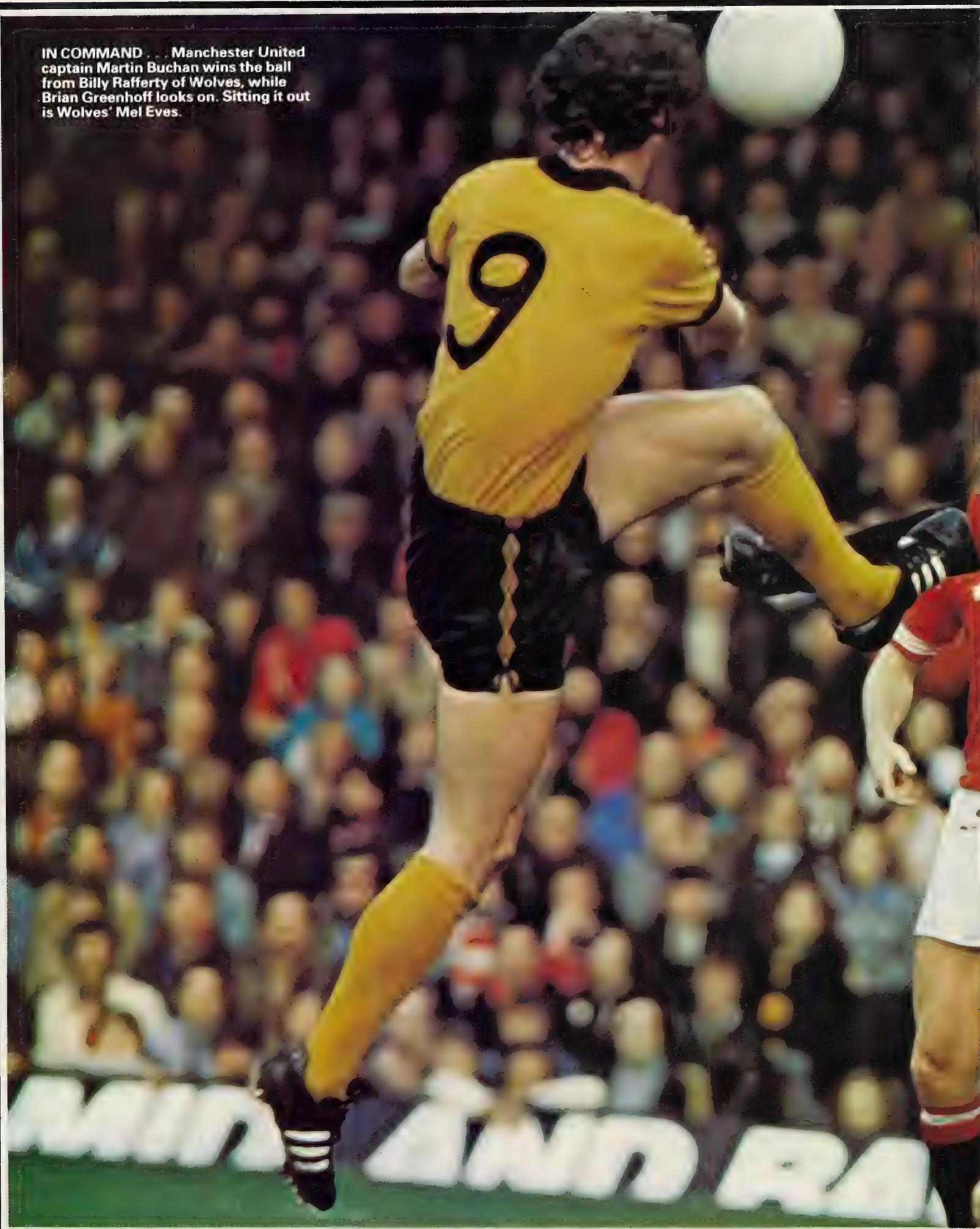
PHILLIPS: The fact Forest are in the running for the Championship in no way makes us feel over-awed. And speaking of the title, Viv, I think Forest have the consistency and the ability, to lift the trophy again. However, a word of warning — if any team can stop you it will be Liverpool. From my experience against them this season I can say they impressed me tremendously.

ANDERSON: Nobody can afford to relax when Liverpool are around, John — I think that is taken for granted by every club in the First Division. And about the consistency you mentioned, one way Forest can prove they have it is by getting a good result against Chelsea.

PHILLIPS: Well, I'm hoping Forest don't get the opportunity to relax against us at the City Ground. The odd thing is in the past I can remember Forest being all over us during the game then Chelsea have still managed to come through with a win. Anything seems to be possible when we play each other.

ANDERSON: The unexpected can never be ruled out between two teams, which could make it interesting for the fans. I believe everything about our previous two encounters points to another hard fought match — and hopefully, an entertaining one.

IN COMMAND . . . Manchester United captain Martin Buchan wins the ball from Billy Rafferty of Wolves, while Brian Greenhoff looks on. Sitting it out is Wolves' Mel Eves.







ODD SHOTS...

Ipswich defender Russell Osman shares a cottage with Chris Mortimer, captain of the Ipswich Rugby Club. Russell was once skipper of the England Schools Rugby team, and shows here he still keeps 'in touch' with the oval-ball game.



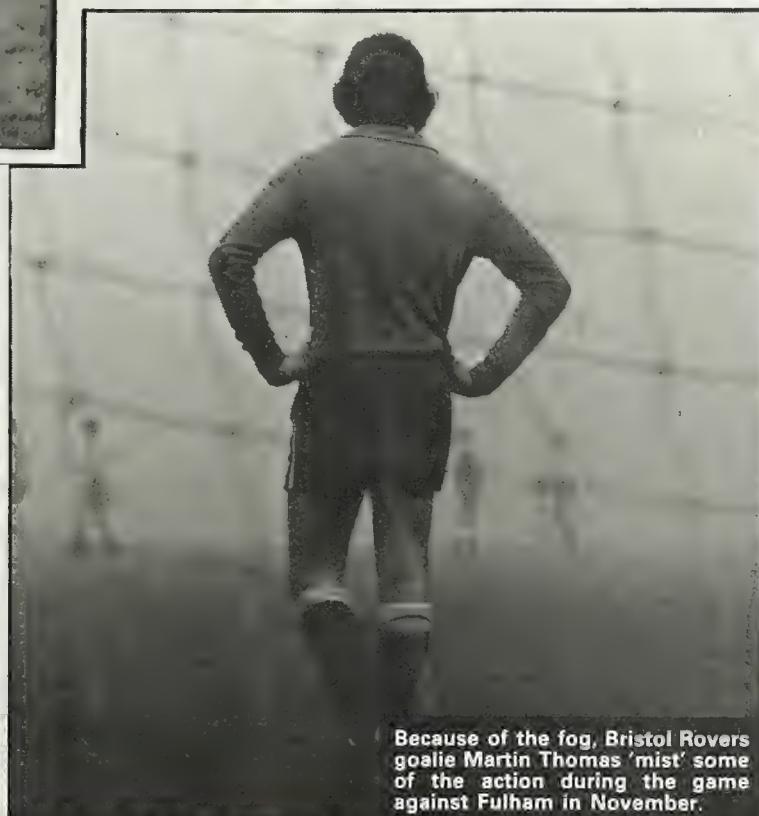
Partick Thistle goalkeeper Alan Rough was caught in the rain at a recent golfing tournament — but gave the crowd a few laughs, as you can see.



Spurs' Argentine star Osvaldo Ardiles is dwarfed by fellow countryman Alejandro Iachetti, the 6ft. 8in. 18½st. lock for the Puma rugby side.



All shook up! Chelsea defender Micky Droy gets tangled up with the goal-netting earlier this season. The Londoners hope Big Micky will be back to help untangle their relegation problems.



Because of the fog, Bristol Rovers goalie Martin Thomas 'mist' some of the action during the game against Fulham in November.

PREVIEW OF THE FIRST-LEG OF THE

SUPER CUP

to be played between Anderlecht and holders Liverpool, in Belgium on Wednesday, December 6th



'We're very strong at home'

RUUD GEELS (Anderlecht)

LIVERPOOL, knocked out of the European Cup by Nottingham Forest, return to the Euro scene next week when they take on Anderlecht in the first-leg of the Super Cup, played between the winners of the European Cup and Cup-Winners' Cup.

No one would claim this competition is of major importance, but the Anfield Reds are the holders (they thrashed Hamburger SV, Kevin Keegan and all, last year) and as Liverpool's pride was severely dented by their European Cup knockout (as was Anderlecht's after losing to Barcelona in the ECWC), they'll be keen to show people they are far from finished as a force in European soccer.

Their opposition could hardly be sterner: Anderlecht of Belgium, who boast many internationals, including Dutch aces Arie Haan, Robbie Rensenbrink ... and the man who can't stop scoring, Ruud Geels.

Geels joined Anderlecht from Ajax this summer and has averaged a goal-a-game for the Brussels side so far.

Liverpool, obviously, will have to keep a close watch on Ruud and perhaps he puts the Super Cup into perspective when he says: "To be honest, the trophy doesn't really interest me in itself.

"As a financial proposition, though, I find it very attractive. We are guaranteed a full house on December 4th when Liverpool

come here for the first-leg.

"I must also say it is an honour to play Liverpool at any time as I rate them as one of the best, if not THE best, European side at the moment.

"I've played against them just once before, in a pre-season friendly in Amsterdam. I'm looking forward to meeting them in a stronger competition now."

"Liverpool's strength? I think you have to consider Liverpool as a team, rather than pick out any individuals. Of course, they have great players such as Kenny Dalglish and Steve Heighway, but Liverpool's success has been a team effort.

'Unbeatable'

"They have the right man in the right place at the right time and this makes them almost unbeatable, especially at Anfield.

"In Brussels we will have the advantage and, like Liverpool, we are very strong at home."

Anderlecht have been setting the pace in their League this season, like Liverpool.

"The other lads say there have been a lot of improvements lately. I can't say, as it's my first year, but I'm told there is more motivation against low sides, which was lacking before.

"There is a lot of confidence in the team, although I must stress our main ambition this season is

not the Super Cup. We want to win the Belgian Championship to end the domination of FC Bruges.

"From a personal point of view, I would love to do this as I was with Bruges earlier in my career. This has helped me settle down quickly at Anderlecht. I feel at home in Belgium ... the way of living appeals to me and the language is the same as in Holland. This was very important as my children are six and ten.

"On the field, life is good, too. The goals are coming, we're top of the League, and we'll be doing our utmost to win the Super Cup."



Terry McDermott with the Man of the Match award after scoring a hat-trick against Hamburger SV in last season's Super Cup Final.

'Liverpool will get the gold medals'

PHIL NEAL (Liverpool)

LIVERPOOL and England right-back, Phil Neal, was one of The Reds who crushed Hamburger SV at Anfield last season. He believes now, like then, he and his colleagues have something very important to prove.

Neal said: "Hamburger came to Anfield with Kevin Keegan as holders of the Cup-Winners' Cup. Liverpool were European Champions. Naturally we wanted to beat them, but on the night we overwhelmed the West Germans and fully justified our position as the best team in Europe.

"Anderlecht and Liverpool find themselves in a similar position — out of their respective competitions. And we both feel disappointed about the way we lost our titles. They went out to Barcelona on penalties when their tie seemed wrapped up after the first-leg in Belgium. We went out of the European Cup without los-

ing to a Continental team.

"We are proud of that fact and have no intention of allowing Anderlecht to spoil it.

"The match itself is more a spectacle for the fans and should be a tremendous affair. But while the gold medal for the winners is a marvellous award, the competition, if you can call it that, does not have anything like the same standing of the more established European tournaments.

"Having said that, the winners are in no doubt of their position — the title is 'Super Cup' and that sums up the status of the winning team — the club who emerge as the overall winners from Europe's two major competitions.

"Anderlecht have a skilful and experienced team, but the way we feel about going out of the European Cup convinces me Liverpool will come away with those gold medals."



IN SHOOT NEXT WEEK...

COLOUR: Forest v. Spurs + Aston Villa team group + Joe Jordan (Manchester United) + Focus on Steve Hunt (below, Coventry) + Chris McGrath, Steve Heighway, Mick Martin and Gordon Hill featured in our International Who's Who Booklet.



FEATURES: Previews of Football League Cup Quarter-Finals and Scottish League Cup Semi-Finals + Wembley Casualties — how injury in a Cup Final has often jeopardised a player's career + Past stars Denis Law, Jimmy Greaves, Peter Thompson and Brian Labone talk about the Best Team They Ever Faced + Big Match Crosstalk — Birmingham v. Everton.

Also: How Dave Sexton's Manchester United differs from the team Tommy Docherty built. Managers Allan Clarke (Barnsley) and Mike Ferguson (Rochdale) + Mervyn Day (West Ham) and Joey Jones (Wrexham) + Iain McCulloch (Notts County).

Eight more pages for our International Who's Who Booklet... and many of your usual favourites in SHOOT next week.

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SHOOT 5

SHOOT referee Clive Thomas assists
Ray to remove mud from an eye during
an F.A. Cup-tie last season.

CLEMENCE

"This one's mine" as
Clem cuts out a cross
during a Queens Park
Rangers raid.





On England duty this time, Ray climbs above everybody else to beat fellow SHOOT colleague Gordon McQueen of Scotland to the ball.

THE CRAWL...



It's not the prettiest picture when Joe Jordan races towards you in full flight. But Ray Clemence goes in to clear from the former Leeds United striker.

RESULTS . . . SCORERS . . . TEAM LINE-UPS

SATURDAY, OCT. 28

THIRD DIVISION

(Continued)

OXFORD (1) 1 (McGrogan)
GILLINGHAM (1) 1 (Price) 4,366
Oxford: Burton; Fogg, Watson, Bodel, Mclntosh, Duncan, McGrogan, Taylor, Foley, Seacole, Hodgson.

Gillingham: Millington; Sharpe, Armstrong, Overton, Weatherley, Crabbe, Nicholl, Hughes, Price, Westwood, Richardson.

PLYMOUTH 0
BLACKPOOL 0 8,886
Plymouth: Hodge; Foster, Rogers, Megson (Harrison), Trusson, Clarke, Silkman, Fear, Bigney, Perrin, Johnson.

Blackpool: Ward; Gardner, Pashley, Thompson, Suddaby, McEwan, Weston, Ronson, Spence (Sermani), Chandler, Wagstaffe.

ROTHERHAM (0) 1 (Phillips)
SHREWSBURY (2) 2 (Turner, Biggins) 4,476
Rotherham: McAlister; Forest, Breckin, Gwyther, Green, Stancliffe (Dawson), Finney, Phillips, Winn, Flynn, Crawford.

Shrewsbury: Mulhearn; King (Cross), Leonard, Turner, Griffin, Hayes, Chapman, Tong, Atkins, Biggins, Maguire.

SHEFF. WED. (0) 0
WALSALL (1) 2 (King, Blackhall o.g.) 12,019
Sheff: W. Cox; Blackhall, Rushbury, Pickering, Smith, Leman, Wylde, Porterfield (Owen), Lowey, Johnson, Hornsby.

Walsall: Kearns; Macken (Caswell), Harrison, Sbragia, Serella, King, Birch, Penn, Austin, Waddington, Kelly.

SWANSEA (2) 4 (Waddle 2, Toshack, Charles)
PETERBOROUGH (1) 1 (Sargent) 11,302
Swansea: Crugdington; Evans, Bartley, Smith, Stevenson, Charles, Callaghan, James (R), Baker (Reeves), Toshack, Waddle.

Peterborough: Waugh; Hindley, Styles, Doyle (Robertson), Green, Ross, Slough, McEwan, Butlin, Sargent, Robson.

WATFORD (1) 1 (Blissett) 14,797
EXETER (0) 0
Watford: Rankin; Stirk, Harrison, Booth, Bolton, Garner, Pollard (Mayes), Blissett, Jenkins, Joslyn, Downes.

Exeter: O'Keefe; Templeman, Hore, Rendell, Giles, Roberts, Neville, Kellow, Bowker, Deive (Holman), Hatch.

FOURTH DIVISION

BRADFORD C (0) 1 (Hutchins)
HUDDERSFIELD (0) 1 (Fletcher) 5,478
Bradford: Downsbrough; Podd, Wood, Bates, Baines, Middleton, Watson, Johnson, Cooke, McNiven, Hutchins.

Huddersfield: Starling; Brown, Sandcock, Lillis (Fletcher), Sutton, Topping, Gray, Hart, Cowling, Robins, Bielby.

DARLINGTON (1) 4 (Walsh, Seal 2, Ferguson)
PORT VALE (0) 0 1,793
Darlington: Burleigh; Natress, Cochrane, Hague, Craig, Stone, Maitland, Walsh, Ferguson, Seal, Wann.

Port Vale: Connaughton; Keenan, Bentley, Stenson, Sproson, Hawkins, Sutcliffe (Harris), Todd, Wright, Healy, Chamberlain.

GRIMSBY (0) 1 (Drinkell)
HEREFORD (1) 1 (Spring) 5,349
Grimsby: Batch, Mawer, Moore, Waters, Barker, Crombie (Cumming), Ford, Liddell, Young, Drinkell, Broly.

Hereford: Hughes; Emery, Burrows, Layton, Marshall, Bailey, Stephens, Feeley, Jones, Gould, Spiring.

HALIFAX (0) 0
BOURNEMOUTH (1) 2 (Massey 2) 1,184
Halifax: Leonard; Hutt, Loska, Smith, Trainer, Dunleavy, Firth, Johnson (Johnston), Prendergast, Campbell, Sidebottom.

Bournemouth: Allen; Cunningham, Miller, Impye, Brown (R), Barton, Borthwick, Johnson, Butler (M), Massey, Brown (K).

HARTLEPOOL (2) 5 (Ayre, Goldthorpe 2, Lawrence, Houchen)
ROCHDALE (0) 1 (Esser) 3,074
Hartlepool: Edgar; Smith (G), Smith (T), Lawrence, Brooks, Ayre, Linacre, Hogan, Newton, Goldthorpe, Houchen.

Rochdale: Felgate; Hallows, Snookes, Hart, Scott, Scaife, Owen, Price (Hilditch), Hoy, Esser, O'Loughlin.

NEWPORT (0) 1 (Lowndes)
BARNES (1) 1 (Bell) 4,570
Newport: Plumley; Walden, Byrne, Davies, Bruton, Thompson, Lowndes, McGeady, Goddard, Sinclair (Warriner), Vaughan.

Barnsley: Springett; Collins, Chambers, Pugh, Saunders, McCarthy, Little, Bell, Riley, Joicey (Speedie), Millar.

READING (3) 3 (Bowman pen., Earles, Hetzke)
STOCKPORT (3) 3 (Lee, Thompson 2) 7,054
Reading: Death; Peters, White, Bowman, Hicks, Bennett, Earles, Hetzke, Kearney, Sanchez (Kearns), Lewis.

Stockport: Rogan; Rutter, Thorpe, Fogarty, Edwards, Smith, Park, Henson, Armstrong (Thompson), Bradd, Lee.

TORQUAY (1) 2 (Lawrence, Murphy)
PORTSMOUTH (0) 1 (Denyer) 4,769
Torquay: Turner; Twitchin, Darke, Davies, Green, Dunne, Wilson, Lawrence, Coffill, Murphy, Parsons.

Portsmouth: Mellor; Ellis, Viney, Denyer, Foster, Piper, Hemmerman, Lathan, Garwood, McIlwraith, Pullar.

WIGAN (0) 2 (Purdie 2, 1 pen)
NORTHAMPTON (0) 0 6,264

Wigan: Brown; Smart, Hinnigan, Gore, Ward, Fretwell, Corrigan, Wright, Moore, Houghton, Purdie.

Northampton: Jayes; Gedminits, Mead, Robertson, Saunders (Walker), Bryant, Farnington, Williams, Frogatt, Reilly, Christie.

WIMBLEDON (3) 3 (Leslie 2, Cork)
DONCASTER (1) 2 (Jones 2) 3,252
Wimbledon: Goddard; Perkins, Eames, Galliers, Donaldson, Bryant, Leslie (Summerill), Haversen, Mills, Cork, Parsons.

Doncaster: Peacock; Owen, Bentley, Cork, Bradley, Olney, Habbin, Lewis, Jones, French, Laidlow.

YORK (0) 1 (Staniforth)
SCUNTHORPE (0) 0 1,970

York: Brown; Kay, Walsh, Stronach, Faulkner, Clements, Ford, Randall, Loggie, McDonald, Staniforth.

Scunthorpe: Crawford; Davy, Pilling, Oates, Deere, Wigg, Grimes, Kilmore, Keeley, Kavanagh, Couch.

SCOTTISH PREMIER

DUNDEE UTD (0) 2 (Dodds, Narey)
PARTICK (0) 0 6,055

Dundee U: McAlpine; Stewart, Kopel, Fleming, Hegarty, Narey, Stark, Sturrock, Payne (Dodds), Kirkwood, Addison.

Partick: Rough; McKinnon, Whittaker, Campbell, McAdam, O'Hara, Houston, Melrose (Anderson), Love, Sonner, Park (Clark).

HEARTS (0) 2 (Busby 2)
CELTIC (0) 0 18,500

Hearts: Dunlop; Brown, Jefferies, McNicholl, Liddell, Fraser (Tierney), Gibson, Bannon, O'Connor, Busby, Robertson.

Celtic: Latchford; Filippi, Lynch, Aitken, McDonald, Edvaldsson, Provan, Conn, McAdam, Burns (Mackie), McCluskey.

MORTON (2) 2 (Ritchie, Russell)
ABERDEEN (1) 1 (Jarvie) 7,000

Morton: Connaghan; Hayes, Holmes, Evans, Orr, Rooney, Russell (Hutchinson), Miller, Thomson, Scott, Ritchie.

Aberdeen: Leighton; Rougvie, Ritchie (Smith), McMaster, McLeish, Miller, Sullivan, Archibald, Harper, Jarvie, Scanlon (Fleming).

MOTHERWELL (1) 1 (Pettigrew)

ST MIRREN (1) 2 (Richardson, Stark pen) 6,007
Motherwell: Rennie; Shanks, Wark, Carr (Larnach), McVie, Stevens, Marinello, Pettigrew, Clinging (Mungall), McLaren, Wilson.

St Mirren: Thomson; Young, Munro, Fitzpatrick, Dunlop, Copland, Richardson, Stark, Abercrombie, McGarvey.

RANGERS (2) 2 (Forsyth A, pen, Smith)

HIBS (1) 1 (MacLeod) 23,000
Rangers: McCloy; Jardine, Forsyth (A), Forsyth (T), Johnstone, MacDonald, McLean, Russell, Parlante, Smith, Cooper (Miller).

Hibs: McDonald; Duncan, Smith, Bremner, Stewart, McNamara, Rae, McLeod, Hutchinson, Callaghan, Higgins.



Tommy McLean was outstanding as he helped Rangers to a fine 3-2 European Cup win v. PSV Eindhoven.

TUESDAY, OCT. 31

ANGLO-SCOTTISH CUP

(Semi-Finals, second-leg)

MANSFIELD (1) 1 (Goodwin)

BURNLEY (0) 2 (Kindon, James) 5,517

Mansfield: Arnold; McClelland, Foster (B), Goodwin, Saxby (M), Bird, Miller (Allen), Moss, Syrett, Phillips, Martin.

Burnley: Stevenson, Scott, Brennan, Noble, Thomson, Rodaway, Hall, Ingham, Fletcher, Kindon, James.

ST. MIRREN (0) 1 (Stark)

OLDHAM (0) 1 (Young) (A.E.T.) 3,000

St. Mirren: Thomson; Young, Munro, Fitzpatrick, Dunlop, Copland, Richardson, Stark, Bone, Abercrombie.

Oldham: McDonnell; Wood, Edwards, Bell, Hicks, Heaton, Halom, Taylor, Young, Chapman, Gardner.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 1

EUROPEAN CUP

(Second Round, second-leg)

NOTTM FOREST (3) 5 (Needham, Woodcock, Anderson, Birtles 2)

AEK ATHENS (0) 1 (Bajevic) 38,069

Nottingham: Shilton; Anderson, Clark (Mills), O'Hare, Needham, Gemmill, Bowyer, Birtles, Woodcock, Robertson.

AEK: Christidis; Moussouris, Idzoglu, Ravoris, Nikolaou, Domazos, Tassos, Nikoloudis, Bajevic, Ardizoglu, Mavros.

PSV EINDHOVEN (1) 2 (Lubse, Deykers)

RANGERS (0) 3 (MacDonald, Johnstone, Russell)

PSV: Van Engelen; Krijgh (Smits), Stevens, Van Kraay, Brändts, Willy Van der Kerkhof, Jansen, Poortvliet, Rene Van der Kerkhof, Lubse, Deykers.

Rangers: McCloy; Jardine, Forsyth (A), Forsyth (T), Johnstone, MacDonald, McLean, Russell, Parlante, Smith, Watson.

CUP-WINNERS' CUP

(Second Round, second-leg)

ABERDEEN (0) 2 (McLellan, Jarvie)

FORTUNA DUSSELDORF (0) 0 16,800

Aberdeen: Clark; Rougvie, McLellan, McMaster, McLeish, Miller, Sullivan, Archibald, Harper, Jarvie, Strachan.

Fortuna: Woyke; Brei, Zewe, Zimmerman, Bates, Kohnen, Wael, Lund, Gunther, Allofs, Seel.

INNSBRUCK (0) 1 (Oberacher)

IPSWICH (0) 1 (Burley) 18,000

Innsbruck: Freidl Koncilia; Zanon, Forstinger, Auer, Sikic (Muller), Hanschitz, Schramm, Peter Koncilia, Hicklersberger, Oberacher (Wolfgang Schwarz), Braschler.

Ipswich: Cooper; Burley, Tibbott, Talbot, Hunter, Osman, Mills, Wark, Mariner, Geddis (Whymark), Woods (Gates).

U.E.F.A. CUP

(Second Round, second-leg)

ARSENAL (0) 1 (Young)

HAJDUK SPLIT (0) 0 41,787

Arsenal: Jennings; Rice, Nelson, Price, O'Leary, Young, Brady, Gatting, Stapleton, Heely (Kosmina), Rix.

Hajduk: Budincevic; Primorac, Krstevic, Luketic (Cop), Pruzovic, Rozic, Zungul, Muzinic, Jovanovic, Djordjevic, Surjak.

DUKLA PRAGUE (0) 1 (Gajdusek)

EVERTON (0) 0 35,000

Dukla: Stromsik; Macel, Samek, Novak, Barnos, Peic (Berger), Vizek, Bilsky, Nehoda, Gajdusek, Stambacher.

Everton: Wood; Darracott, Pejic, Kenyon, Wright, Nulty (King), Ross, Dobson, Latchford, Walsh, Thomas.

HIBS (0) 1 (McLeod pen.)

STRASBOURG (0) 0 14,662

Hibs: McDonald; Duncan, Smith, Bremner, Stewart, McNamara, Rae, McLeod, Hutchinson, Higgins, Murray.

Strasbourg: Drosy; Marx, Domenech, Specht, Novi, Dugueperoux, Tanter, Piasecki, Wagner, Gemmrich, Deutschmann.

STANDARD LIEGE (0) 2 (Sigurvinsson 2, 1 pen.)

MAN CITY (0) 0 30,000

Standard: Preud'homme; Gerets, Renquin, Garot, Poel, Labarbe, Onal, Graf, Wellens (Denier), Sigurvinsson, De Matos (Plessers).

Man C: Corrigan; Clements, Donachie, Booth, Watson, Owen, Shannon, Bell, Kidd, Hartford, Palmer.

W.B.A. (0) 1 (Brown A)

SPORTING BRAGA (0) 0 26,019

W.B.A: Godden; Batson, Statham, Cunningham, Wile, Robertson, Robson (Trewick), Brown (A), Regis, Cantello (Martin), Brown (T).

Braga: Cohne; Correira, Serra, Cardoso, Bilala (Mendes), Paulo Rocha, Jose Artur, Garcia (Fontes), Chico Faria, Lito, Nelinho.

REPRESENTATIVE

SCOTTISH LEAGUE (0) 1 (Pettigrew)

IRISH LEAGUE (1) 1 (Armstrong)

at Motherwell 4,427

Scottish League: Rough; Narey, Burns, Stevans, Hegarty, Thomson, Houston, Bannon, Pettigrew, McAdam (Sonner), Marinello.

Irish League: Barplay; Kennedy, Cromie, Walsh, Rafferty, Cleary, Sloan, Dornan, Armstrong, Dickson, Murray.

FRIDAY, NOV. 3

SECOND DIVISION

FULHAM (1) 1 (Evans)

BLACKBURN (1) 2 (Garner 2) 12,500

Fulham: Peyton; Evans, Strong, Lock, Money (Maggerson), Gale, Bullivant, Evans, Guthrie, Beck, Greenaway.

Blackburn: Butcher; Hird, Bailey, Metcalf, Keeler, Fazackerley, Brosterston, Garner, Craig, Round, Birchenall.

THIRD DIVISION

COLCHESTER (0) 2 (Bunkell, Gough)

PLYMOUTH (1) 1 (Binney) 4,564

Colchester: Walker; Cook, Packer (Dyer), Hodge, Wignall, Dowman, Foley, Gough, Bunkell, Lee, Allinson.

Plymouth: Hodge; Hodges, Rogers, Silkman, Foster, Clarke, Fear (Trusson), Megson, Binney, Perrin, Johnson.

FOURTH DIVISION

STOCKPORT (0) 0

WIGAN (0) 1 (Hinnigan) 8,357

Stockport: Rogan, Thorpe, Rutter, Fogarty, Park, Edwards, Henson, Armstrong, Bradd, Thompson, Lee.

Wigan: Brown, Smart, Hinnigan, Gore, Ward, Fretwell, Corrigan, Wright, Moore, Houghton, Purdie.

SATURDAY, NOV. 4

FIRST DIVISION

ARSENAL (3) 4 (Stapleton 3, Nelson)

IPSWICH (1) 1 (Mariner) 35,269

Arsenal: Jennings; Rice, Nelson, Price, O'Leary, Young, Brady, Sunderland, Stapleton, Gatting, Rix.

Ipswich: Cooper; Mills, Tibbott, Talbot, Hunter, Osman, Wark, Muhren, Mariner, Geddis (Whymark), Woods.

ASTON VILLA (0) 1 (Deehan) 32,724
MAN. CITY (0) 1 (Owen pen.)

Villa: Rimmer; Gidman (Evans), Williams, Phillips, McNaught, Mortimer, Craig, Little, Gray, Deehan, Gregory.

Man. C: Corrigan; Clements, Donachie, Viljoen, Booth, Fletcher (P), Channon, Owen, Kidd, Hartford, Palmer.

BOLTON 0
COVENTRY 0 22,379

Bolton: McDonagh; Nicholson, Dunne, Greaves, Walsh, Jones (P), Morgan, Reid, Gowling, Worthington, McNab.

Coventry: Sealey; Coop, McDonald, Blair, Osgood, Gillespie, Green, Wallace, Ferguson, Powell, Hutchison.

DERBY (2) 4 (Daly, Hill, Caskey, Duncan)

WOLVES (0) 1 (Carr) 20,658

Derby: Middleton; Langan, Buckley, Daly, McFarland, Moreland, Carter, Powell, Duncan, Caskey, Hill.

Wolves: Bradshaw; Palmer, Parkin, Hazell, Brazier, McAlle, Hibbitt, Carr, Rafferty, Eves, Daly.

LIVERPOOL (0) 1 (McDermott pen.)

LEEDS (1) 1 (Hawley) 51,657

Liverpool: Clemence; Neal, Kennedy (A), Thompson, Kennedy (R), Hansen, Daiglish, Case, Heighway, Johnson, Souness (McDermott).

Leeds: Harvey; Cherry, Gray (F), Flynn, Hart, Madeley, Gray (E), Hankin, Hawley, Currie, Graham.

MAN. UTD (1) 1 (Greenhoff J)
SOUTHAMPTON (0) 1 (Holmes) 46,259

Man. U: Roche; Nicholl, Houston, McIlroy, Greenhoff (B), Buchan, Coppel, Greenhoff (J), Jordan, Macar, Grimes.

Southampton: Genhoe; Golac, Peach, Williams, Nicholl, Waldron, Ball, Boyer, Hebbard, Holmes, Curran.

MIDDLESBROUGH 0
BRISTOL C 0 20,471

Middlesbrough: Stewart; Crags, Bailey, Mahoney, Boam, McAndrew, Proctor, Mills, Hodgson, Burns, Armstrong.

Bristol C: Shaw; Sweeney, Gillies, Gow, Rodgers, Hunter, Tainton, Ritchie, Royle, Bain, Mabbutt.

NORWICH (1) 2 (Ryan pen., Peters)

TOTTENHAM (2) 2 (Lee, Taylor) 25,695

Norwich: Keelan; Bond, Davies, Ryan, Holday, Powell, Neighbour, Reeves, Symonds, Mendham (Downs), Peters.

Tottenham: Kendall; Naylor, McAllister, Holmes, Lacy, Perryman, Pratt, Ardiles (Villa), Lee, Hoddle, Taylor.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST 0
EVERTON 0 35,415

Notm F: Shilton; Anderson, Bowyer, O'Hare, Lloyd, Burns, Neill, Gemmill, Birtles, Woodcock, Robertson.

Everton: Wood; Darracott, Pejic, Todd, Wright, Ross, King, Dobson, Latchford, Walsh, Thomas.

Q.P.R. 0
CHELSEA 0 22,876

Q.P.R.: Parkes; Shanks, Gillard, Hollins, Howe, Busby, Eastoe (Allen), McGee, Harkou, Bowles, Cunningham.

Chelsea: Phillips; Wilkins (G), Stride, Stanley, Wicks, Harris, McKenzie, Wilkins (R), Langley, Swain, Walker.

W.B.A. (1) 1 (Trewick) 31,988
BIRMINGHAM (0) 0

W.B.A.: Godden; Batson, Trewick, Brown (T), Wile, Robertson, Robson, Brown (A), Regis, Cantello, Cunningham.

BIRMINGHAM: Freeman; Calderwood, Dennis, Towers, Gallagher (Dillon), Tarantini, Page, Buckley, Givens, Emmanuel, Barrowclough.

SECOND DIVISION

BRISTOL R (1) 2 (Randall 2)
NEWCASTLE (0) 0 10,582

Bristol R: Thomas; Aitken, Bater, Day, Taylor, Prince, Dennehy, Williams, Randall, Stanforth, Lythgoe (Hendrie).

Newcastle: Hardwick; Brownlie, Kelly, Walker, Bird, Blackley, Suggett, Pearson, Withe, Hibbitt, Connolly.

BURNLEY (1) 2 (Brennan, Fletcher)

C. PALACE (0) 1 (Chatterton pen.) 11,067

Burnley: Stevenson; Scott, Brennan, Robinson, Thomson, Rodaway, Hall, Ingham, Fletcher, Kindon, James.

Palace: Burridge; Fenwick, Sansom, Chatterton, Cannon, Gilbert, Nicholas, Kember, Swindlehurst, Elwiss (Murphy), Hilaire.

CAMBRIDGE (2) 3 (Biley 2, Finney)

ORIENT (1) 1 (Grealish) 6,655

Cambridge: Webster; Howard, Smith, Stringer, Fallon, Leach, Christie, Spriggs, Garner, Finney, Biley.

Orient: Jackson; Fisher, Roffey (Chedozie), Grealish, Gray, Went, Hughton, Moores, Mayo, Kitchen, Coates.

CARDIFF (1) 1 (Stevens)

CHARLTON (2) 4 (Madden, Robinson, Brisley 2) 7,842

Cardiff: Healey; Dwyer, Roberts, Campbell, Pontin, Thomas, Grapes (Bishop), Buchanan, Stevens, Evans, Lewis.

Charlton: Wood; Shaw, Campbell, Tydeman, Shirrley, Berry, Brisley, Robinson, Flanagan, Madden, Gritt (Peacock).

LUTON (0) 0

LEICESTER (0) 1 (Christie) 10,608

Luton: Aleksić; Donaghy, Aizlewood, Hill, Turner, Price (Carr), West, Fuccillo, Stein, Hatton, Moss.

Leicester: Wallington; Whitworth, Rose, Williams, May, Kelly, Weller, Ridley, Christie, Henderson (White), Hughes.

MILLWALL (2) 2 (Wood o.g., Hamilton)

OLDHAM (1) 3 (Bell, Hicks 2) 5,626

Millwall: Cuff; Donaldson, Gregory, Hamilton (B), Kitchener, Tagg, Towner, Seasman, Mitchell, Walker, Mehmet.

Oldham: McDonnell; Wood, Blair, Bell, Hicks, Hurst, Gardner, Taylor, Young, Chapman, Halom.

SHEFF. UTD (0) 0

BRIGHTON (1) 1 (Poskett) 16,683

Sheff. U: Conroy; Franks, Calvert, Kenworthy, Matthews, Speight, Stainrod, Keeley, Finniston, Sabella, Hamson (Varadi).

Brighton: Moseley; Tiler, Williams, Horton, Winstanley, Lewrenson, Ryan, Poskett, Maybank, Sayer, O'Sullivan (Clark).

SUNDERLAND (0) 0

STOKE (0) 1 (O'Callaghan) 25,170

Sunderland: Siddall; Henderson, Bolton, Docherty, Clarke, Elliott, Brown (Greenwood), Buckley, Lee, Entwistle, Rowell.

Stoke: Jones; Johnson, Scott, Kendall, Smith, Doyle, Dodd, Irving, O'Callaghan, Crooks (Conroy), Richardson.

WEST HAM (1) 3 (Lampard, Devonshire, Cross)

PRESTON (1) 1 (Thomson) 23,579

West Ham: Day; Lampard, Brush, Holland, Taylor, Bonds, Curbishley, Devonshire, Cross, Brooking, Robson.

Preston: Tunks; McMahon, Cameron, Doyle, Baxter, O'Riordan, Coleman, Haslegrave, Robinson, Thomson, Bruce.

WREXHAM (1) 3 (McNeil, Thomas pen., Whittle)

NOTTS CO (0) 1 (O'Brien) 10,891

Wrexham: Davies; Jones, Dwyer, Davis, Roberts, Thomas, Shinton, Sutton, McNeil, Lyons (Hill), Whittle.

Notts Co: McManus; McVay, O'Brien, Benjamin, Stubbs, Hunt, McCulloch, Masson, Hooks, Green, Mann.

THIRD DIVISION

BLACKPOOL (0) 0

SHEFF. WED (1) 1 (Hornsby) 9,403

Blackpool: Ward; Gardner (Sermani), Pashley, Thompson, Suddaby, McEwan, Weston, Ronson, Spence, Chandler, Wagstaffe.

Sheff. W: Turner; Blackhall, Rushbury, Pickering, Smith, Leman, Wyld, Porterfield, Lowey, Johnson, Hornsby.

BRENTFORD (2) 3 (McCulloch, Smith 2)

OXFORD (0) 0 6,860

Brentford: Bond; Salmon, Tucker, McNichol, Kruse, Graham (J), Shrub, Carlton, Smith (Frost), McCulloch, Phillips.

Oxford: Burton; Fogg (Jeffrey), Watson, Briggs, McIntosh, Duncan, McGrogan, Taylor, Foley, Seacole, Hodgson.

CHESTERFIELD (2) 3 (Simpson, Salmons, Cottam)

CHESTER (0) 1 (Raynor) 5,015

Chesterfield: Letheran; Flavell, Burton, Hunter, Cottam, Prophett, Tarr, Kowalski, Fern, Salmons, Simpson.

Chester: Millington; Nickeas, Raynor, Storton, Jeffries, Oakes, Jones, Livermore, Edwards, Mellor, Phillips.

EXETER (1) 3 (Bowker 2, Hatch)

TRANMERE (0) 0 3,526

Exeter: O'Keeffe; Templeman, Mitchell, Randal, Giles, Roberts, Neville, Kellow, Bowker, Devle, Hatch.

Transmire: West; Mathies, Cahill, Parry, Postlewaite, Evans, O'Neil, Bramhall, Moore, Peplow, McAuley.

SWINDON (0) 1 (Gilmchrist)

SOUTHEND (0) 0 4,656

Swindon: Ogden; McLaughlin, Ford, McHale, Aizlewood, Stroud, Miller, Carter, Gilchrist, Bates, Kamara.

Southend: Cawston; Stead, Yates (Fell), Laverick, Cusack, Moody, Morris, Polycarpou, Parker, Dudley, Pountney.

WALSALL (0) 0

ROTHERHAM (1) 1 (Green) 5,456

Walsall: Kearns; Macken, Harrison, Sbragia, Serella, King, Birch, Penn, Austin, Caswell, Kelly.

Rotherham: McAlister; Forrest, Breckin, Gwyther, Green, Flynn, Finney, Phillips, Winn, Crawford, Smith.

FOURTH DIVISION

ALDERSHOT (1) 2 (Shanahan, McGregor)

GRIMSBY (0) 0 3,536

Aldershot: Johnson; Edwards, Wooler, Dixon, Youlden, Jopling, Longhorn, Brodie, Shanahan (Crosby), Dungworth, McGregor.

Grimbsy: Batch; Mawer, Moore, Waters, Barker, Crombie, Ford, Liddell (Cumming), Drinkell, Young, Brally.

BARNESLEY (1) 3 (Bell 2, Riley)

WIMBLEDON (0) 1 (Galvin) 11,761

Barnsley: Springett; Collins, Chambers, Pugh, Saunders, McCarthy, Bell (Speedie), Clarke, Riley, Joicey, Millar.

Wimbledon: Goddard; Bryant, Perkins, Galiher, Donaldson, Galvin, Leslie (Cowley), Haverson, Knowles, Cork, Parsons.

CONTINUED NEXT WEEK.



Tom Finney was on the mark as Cambridge beat Orient 3-1.



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Aston Villa (H)	£8.10	£8.90	£10.45	£10.80
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*H = Home. *A = Away

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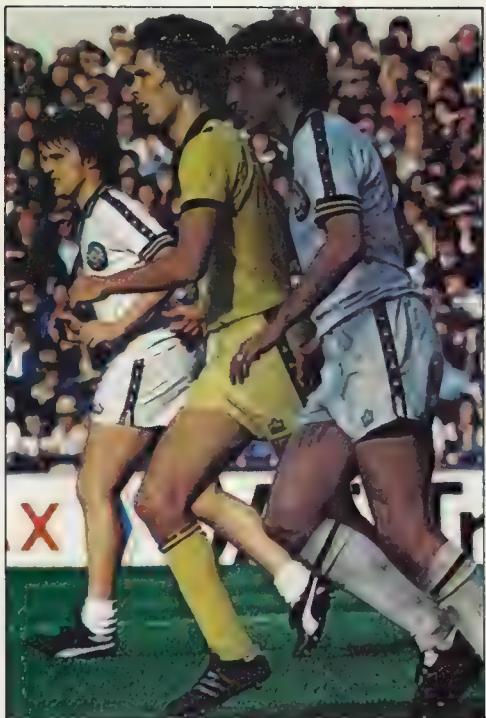
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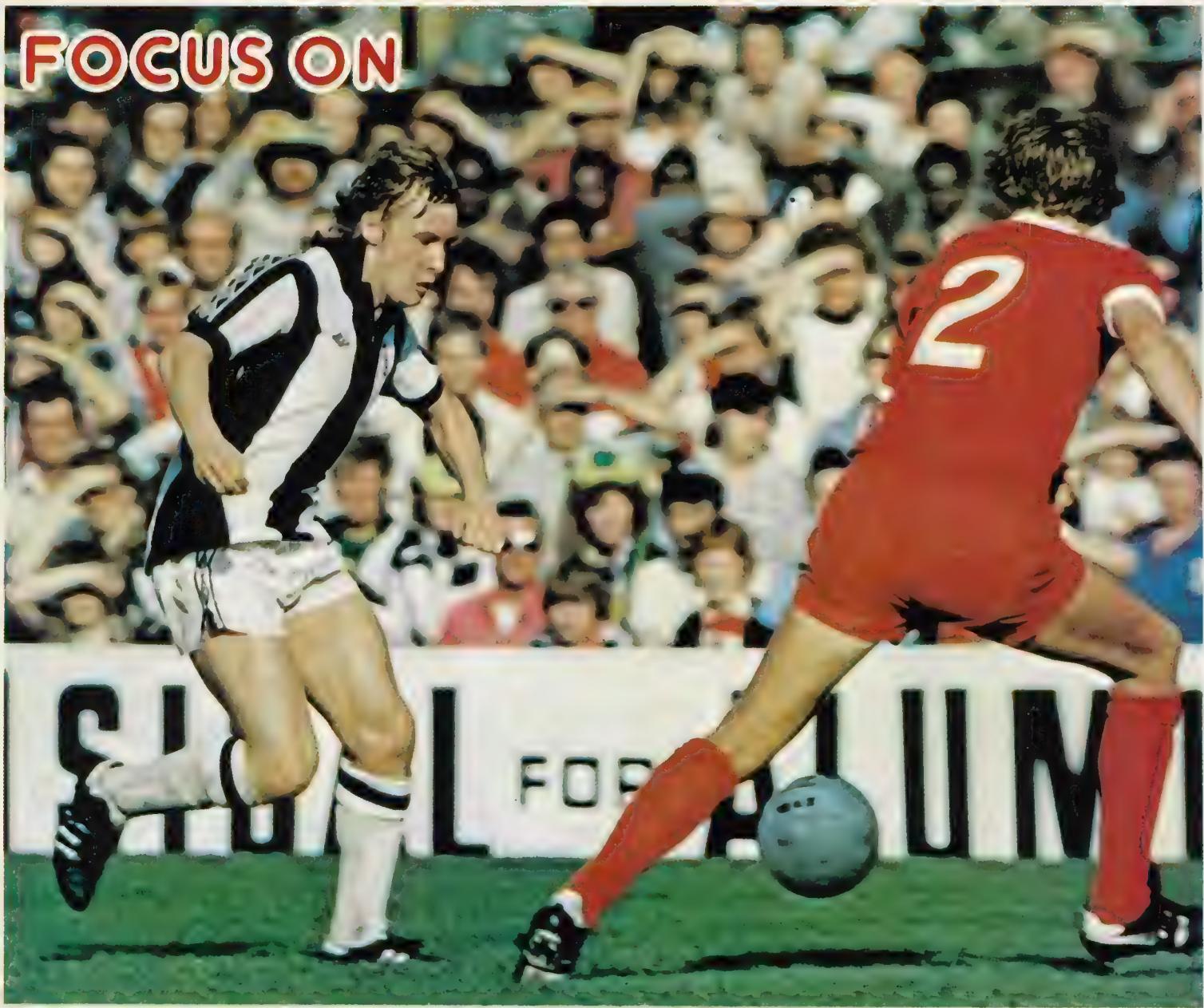
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FOCUS ON



DEREK STATHAM

West Bromwich Albion

FULL NAME: Derek James Statham

BIRTHPLACE: Wolverhampton

BIRTHDATE: 24th March, 1959

HEIGHT: 5ft 6ins

WEIGHT: 10st 13lbs

PREVIOUS CLUB: None

MARRIED: No, but engaged to Sue
CAR: Ford Escort

FAVOURITE PLAYER: George Best,
when playing

FAVOURITE OTHER TEAM: Chelsea

MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT: They're
all hard

MOST MEMORABLE MATCH: First
Division debut v. Stoke City

BIGGEST THRILL: Scoring on my debut

BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: Losing to

Ipswich in last season's F.A. Cup

Semi-Finals

BEST COUNTRY VISITED: France

FAVOURITE FOOD: Steak and chips

MISCELLANEOUS LIKES: Golf and
driving

MISCELLANEOUS DISLIKES: Ignorant
people

FAVOURITE T.V. SHOWS: Happy Days,
The Benny Hill Show and most sports
programmes

FAVOURITE SINGERS: The Eagles and

The Chi-Lites

FAVOURITE ACTORS: Clint Eastwood

and Robert Redford

BEST FRIEND: I hope I have a few

BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: My
parents and my former player-manager

Johnny Giles for giving me a chance

BIGGEST DRAG IN SOCCER: Being

injured

INTERNATIONAL HONOURS: England
Youth and Under-21 caps

PERSONAL AMBITION: To be happy
and contented

PROFESSIONAL AMBITION: To play for

England at full level

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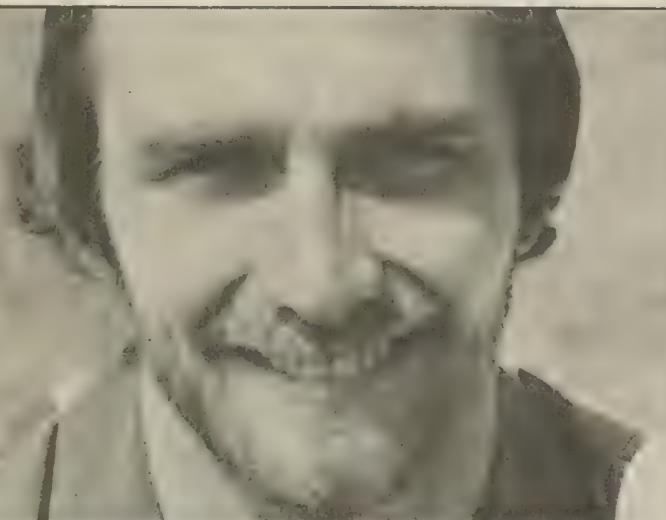
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Third time lucky for Brighton captain



BRIAN HORTON

— when it comes to promotion?

As the League tables begin to take shape there is every reason to suppose Brighton will be one of the main promotion contenders for a place in the First Division next season. In fact their captain, Brian Horton, is convinced the disappointment of missing promotion last season is now firmly behind the players.

"At the time we were obviously disappointed, but we got it out of our systems in the close season. I think in professional sport one overcomes disappointments and we're all looking forward to attempting to achieve that aim this time.

"Okay — we did slip up early on against Cambridge whom we were looking to beat after dropping a point at Wrexham, but we won two successive home games, and have been up with the Division leaders since. And we are through to the League Cup Quarter-Finals so we haven't made a bad start."

Important Signings

Horton was signed for a bargain £30,000 from Port Vale in March, 1976 by Peter Taylor who rated Horton as being one of his most important signings while he was in charge at the Goldstone.

At the time both clubs were Third Division promotion rivals.

"The experience I gained at Port Vale was invaluable," Horton said, "they didn't have too much money to buy players and everybody more or less came for nothing which meant a lot because we all had to work as a team."

Horton admits his move to the South Coast was a surprise.

"I knew clubs were interested although Roy Sproson said he wouldn't let me go to another Third Division team. I think he released me to Brighton because at the time they looked certain for promotion."

"Also," Horton went on, "it was the highest bid they'd had. Hereford and Plymouth had

offered £25,000 and I would have been happy to have gone to either club."

Even then Horton had no doubts about Brighton's potential — "I felt they had to go places and I wanted to be part of it. I'd never been in a promotion side but then to be made captain of it was really the icing on the cake."

Twice Horton has seen Brighton miss out on promotion.

"Undoubtedly our away record kept us an extra year in the Third Division. I'm sure that was the result of going to places with small crowds where we missed the Goldstone atmosphere.

"Last season was different. We'd been in the top three for much of the season and when we suddenly dropped to fifth a lot of people thought we'd blown it. That took the pressure off and enabled us to relax and we had a marvellous run in taking 15 points from a possible 18 which is real promotion form."

Horton does not subscribe to the theory a season to consolidate in a lower Division is a good thing.

"If the chance of promotion is there as it was last season it should be taken. I'm sure we wouldn't have struggled if we had made it — we've got the players and draw the crowds which make the club geared for First Division football. Once we go up we'll definitely stay there."

But Horton refuses to single-out any of the players. "It's great to have people who are capable of doing something different which can change their game completely."

Besides their promising start in the League, Brighton are looking forward to next week's Quarter-Final League Cup-tie at Nottingham Forest.

"It couldn't be any tougher. Travelling to the Football League Champions will be a valuable experience in our determined effort to clinch promotion this time."

The White Pele of English Soccer ALAN BRAZIL

of Ipswich Town



THE famous Pele did much to advance the standard of American soccer during his two years with the Cosmos. Now it seems the favour has been repaid.

Alan Brazil of Ipswich Town, nicknamed 'Pele' by his team-mates has really benefited from playing for Detroit Express in the North American Soccer League during the summer of 1978.

Together with striking partner, Trevor Francis of Birmingham, Alan hit the headlines. In 20 matches for Detroit, he scored ten goals, receiving 'Man of the Match' awards against Minnesota Kicks, Portland Timbers and Houston Hurricanes.

Partnership

Alan believed he could have scored more. "My job was to create chances for Trevor Francis, but when Trevor was marked I would have a go myself." The partnership took Detroit to the Quarter-Final play-offs against Fort Lauderdale, to whom they lost narrowly on the U.S.-style shoot-out.

Throughout his short career, Alan has always had the knack of finding the back of the net. While playing for Celtic Boys' Club in his native Glasgow, he hit 62 goals in one season, after moving from midfield to a striking position. His form naturally had the scouts buzzing.

At one time, Burnley, Everton, Manchester United, Spurs and Ipswich were all after his signature but it was Ipswich's Scottish scout, George Findlay who convinced Alan Portman Road was the place for him. "With so many clubs interested, it was difficult to decide who to sign for," said Alan, "but the facilities at Ipswich were really impressive."

Charlie Woods, Ipswich's Youth Trainer was impressed with Alan's qualities, but felt he lacked pace and needed to develop his heading ability. These shortcomings were gradually ironed out in training through continuous sprints and heading exercises.

Alan believes playing on Astro-turf in the States has given him extra pace. Because the artificial turf is not subject to weather conditions, the ball skims off the surface, so you need to be very quick to control it, plus the fact it is much easier to run on a stable surface than, say, the grass pitches when they become cloggy.

Top scorer with 27 goals in his first season with the youth team, Brazil ran rampant in the next, scoring 44 goals with 16 of those coming in only four games! His goalscoring exploits were rewarded with four Scottish Youth Caps and the South-East Counties League Hawes Trophy, presented to the Player of the Year.

In season 1977/78, his first full year with the reserve side, Alan netted 20 goals.

With six substitute appearances under his belt, three from last season, Alan played his first full game away to League Champions and League Cup winners Nottingham Forest.

Having to play against Scottish international Kenny Burns, last season's 'Footballer of the Year', was a real test and one which Alan enjoyed, even though he couldn't prevent Ipswich going down by the only goal.

Ipswich manager, Bobby Robson, would have liked to have blooded the 19-year-old at a later stage but has no regrets about throwing him in at the deep end. "Alan has a big future in the game, his build is ideal for a striker. I see no reason why he won't score goals in the top flight," says Robson. "Certainly the extra pace and experience he has gained from playing in the States will benefit his game."

Alan himself is clearly relishing the thought of scoring goals in the First Division. "Ever since I moved from midfield to a striking position, I have had this knack of finding the back of the net. I know you only get split seconds to take your chances in the First Division, but I am sure the goals will come."

WE hear almost daily of the exploits of the Liverpools, Manchesters, Tottenhams and Arsenals of the football world. Our ears are regularly assailed with news of their managers, transfers, players and prospects. Not that we would have it any other way, for it is within their mighty organisations the main controversy, drama and excitement, the lifeblood of this great game of ours, is contained.

But there are several dozen other teams in the League which play week-in and week-out with little prospect of getting their hands on domestic soccer's glittering prizes and which rate, if they are lucky, just a few lines in the national sports pages.

Thirteen such clubs have spent all their careers in the Third and Fourth Divisions — a total of 556 League seasons — yet they too have had their moments! Take little Rochdale as an example. Most of their life has been played out in Division Three (North) and the Fourth. They have been obliged to seek re-election to the League on seven occasions and yet they have done what three First Division sides have failed to achieve — appeared in the Final of a major competition.

Admittedly it was in 1962, when the Football League Cup was hardly the showpiece it is today, but they secured a place in history as the only Fourth Division club to



UNLUCKY 13

A look at the clubs which have spent the whole of their Football League careers in the Third and Fourth Divisions

contest the last stage of a top tournament.

Chester almost emulated that feat in 1975. As a Fourth Division side they knocked out First Division Leeds and Newcastle (after a goalless draw at St. James' Park), before Aston Villa dismissed them from the League Cup Semi-Finals on a narrow 5-4 verdict on aggregate.

They were compensated by promotion to the Third a few weeks later, the last of the League clubs of that time to obtain their first-ever elevation, and Villa also changed company by climbing into the First Division.

Odd Goal Defeat

Another team amongst our baker's dozen from the lower Leagues to have reached the last four of the League Cup is Shrewsbury, although they did it as a Third Division side.

They got to the Semi-Final in the competition's inaugural season of 1960-61 before they, too, lost on aggregate by the odd goal — 3-4 to Rotherham United, another of the Cup's Second Division Finalists, as were Norwich, the team which stopped Rochdale going all the way the following year.

Shrewsbury have spent 27 of their 29 League seasons in the Third Division, having been promoted immediately on the two occasions in which they have fallen into the Fourth — 1959 and 1975. They also narrowly missed taking their place in the country's top 44, coming third in the days when only two promotion places

were available — 1960 and 1968. Had they succeeded in the former attempt they would have moved from the Fourth to the Second in consecutive seasons.

Some of our other all-Third and Fourth Division teams have performed some stirring deeds in the F.A. Cup. Bournemouth hold a place in the record books by virtue of having provided the tournament's top individual goalscorer for a single match.

Ted MacDougall, now back with the club, got nine for them in the 11-0 First Round drubbing of Southern League Margate in 1971. The Cherries, as they are known, along with Southend, have served the longest time in Division Three (44 years apiece) and also provided some F.A. Cup surprises in the 1950's.

Then we have Colchester, who in the same year as MacDougall was creating his record, beat Leeds United at their peak 3-2 at Layer Road to reach the Sixth



Round and share an achievement with Oxford United as the only Fourth Division clubs to get to that stage. Bradford City have since joined their exclusive company.

It was not the first time that the soccer world had heard from the little Essex team, for in 1948 they had stormed into the Fifth Round as non-Leaguers with the scalps of



Huddersfield and Bradford Park Avenue before being halted by eventual Finalists, Blackpool, events which undoubtedly led to Colchester's election to the League two years later when it was expanded from 88 to 92 clubs in 1950-51.

Another club which forced its attention on the membership via a good F.A. Cup record prior to their admission to the League in 1960 was Peterborough. Although they never carried out any really sensational 'giant-killing', they have such a consistent analysis in the competition that only Reading have reached the Third Round more times than themselves in post-War F.A. Cup history.

Fears that Posh might not be good enough to remain in the company of the top 92 clubs were

TOP LEFT...
Bournemouth's Ted
MacDougall.
ABOVE... Exeter (light
shorts) reached the last
eight of the 1931 F.A. Cup
competition.
LEFT... Gillingham (dark
shirts) lost their League
status but fought back.

despatched by their winning the Fourth Division Championship at the first attempt with 134 goals, still a season's best haul for any Division.

They took that title for a second time in 1974, having been demoted to the Fourth for payment irregularities in 1968, and share with Doncaster the distinction of being the only clubs to have won the last League twice.

The only other team amongst

RIGHT . . . Ray Graydon scores for Villa against Chester in the 1975 League Cup Semi-Finals.

BELOW . . . Colchester (dark strip) celebrate a goal v. mighty Leeds in the 1970-71 F.A. Cup.



the thirteen to have been Champions of any of the Divisions is Gillingham, who took the Fourth in 1964. None of the other eleven sides has ever headed a Division.

Harking back to the F.A. Cup, Aldershot had their greatest day in that tournament fourteen years ago when they beat First Division Aston Villa, in a replay after holding them to 0-0 at Villa Park. There was a time when The Shots had some of the most famous names in the country turning out for them.

Guest Players

During the War, many of the star players were stationed in the garrison town and played as guests for its football team. Aldershot only just beat Chester to a first-ever promotion, rising to the Third in 1973 two years before the Cheshire club, but soon tumbling back into the basement again. Last season they just missed going up again.

Exeter is another quiet back-water of soccer which has had F.A. Cup excitement, although rather longer ago than Aldershot. It was, in fact, in 1931 they had the kind of run managers dream about, gaining victory over Derby, Bury and Leeds to get into the last eight.

When they drew with the then mighty Sunderland at Roker Park a place in the Semi-Finals seemed a distinct possibility but they crashed at home in the replay before their biggest crowd of almost 21,000. The score was 2-4.

Halifax celebrated Coronation year with a similar sequence. They took advantage of being drawn at home in every round by putting

out Southport, Stoke and Cardiff, the latter two then both in the First Division, but they could not manage Spurs.

A crowd of 36,885 flocked to The Shay in 1953 but, despite the exhortations of the home crowd, this run, like that of Exeter's 21 years earlier, ending in anti-climax, Tottenham winning 3-0.

The Yorkshire club's best League performance was in finishing third in the Third in 1971. Three seasons later that would have been sufficient to give them promotion.

Some of our thirteen have launched some well-known names. Hartlepool is the place where Brian Clough plunged into his managerial career and even in those days he was hitting the headlines by taking a cut in wages to assist the struggling North-Easterners.

Hartlepool's only distinction, apart from having had to apply for re-election a record dozen times, is to have been the longest serving members of the Fourth Division. Of the 21 years it has been in existence, they have been in that League for all but one season, finding the deeper waters of the Third too much for them when promoted in 1968 they soon returned to their natural habitat.

Players have scaled the heights, like Alan Taylor, who hit both West Ham's goals in the 1975 Cup Final only six months after his £40,000 transfer from Rochdale which equalled the latter's highest transaction. They sold David Cross to Norwich for the same sum and he, too, subsequently became a Hammer.



Good Cup performances or a strong bid to get out of the Third Division have been features of the clubs under scrutiny and the last three in the spotlight prove no exceptions.

Southend enjoyed three thrilling months of F.A. Cup action in 1951-52, falling to Sheffield United in the Fifth Round in what was their fifth successive home tie. 24 years later they again reached the last sixteen, but this time the Cup thrills were accompanied by relegation to the Fourth Division, from where Southend had risen in 1972.

They were promoted again last term so, having previously come no higher than third in the Third Division in 1950 and 1932, the seventies have proved a rewarding era for The Shrimpers in terms of advancement.

Halifax were also runners-up in Division Three (North) in 1934-35 but we have considered this a lesser achievement than coming

third in a non-regionalised League in 1970-71.

We have already briefly touched on Gillingham but it should also be mentioned The Gills were the last team to fight their way back into the League having previously lost that precious status and they are now a flourishing Third Division outfit, having gained promotion in 1974 as the country's top goalscorers.

Finally, Torquay's peak was in conceding promotion to the Second Division on goal average in 1957 to Ipswich. Twelve months later, they were allocated to the new Fourth Division.

Newport's one season in Division Two in 1946-47 just excludes them from this list of thirteen and, if you add to these clubs Wimbledon and Wigan, who have not yet emerged from the Fourth, then very nearly a sixth of the present Football League has existed solely in the two lower Divisions.

RECORDS OF THE 13 CLUBS

Entered League	SEASONS IN DIV. 3	SEASONS IN DIV. 4	TOTAL
1932	Aldershot	22	18
1923	A.F.C. Bournemouth	44	5
1931	Chester	24	17
1950	Colchester United	20	9
1920	Exeter City	35	17
1920	Gillingham	38	9
1921	Halifax	42	9
1921	Hartlepool	31	20
1960	Peterborough United	12	7
1921	Rochdale	36	15
1950	Shrewsbury Town	27	2
1920	Southend United	44	8
1927	Torquay United	32	13

HONOURS

1961 Peterborough
1962 Rochdale
1964 Gillingham
1974 Peterborough

Division Four Champions
Football League Cup runners-up
Division Four Champions
Division Four Champions

Figures include the 1978/79 season.
Gillingham left the League between 1938 and 1950.

Which club did Brian Clough and Peter Taylor run together before joining Nottingham Forest?

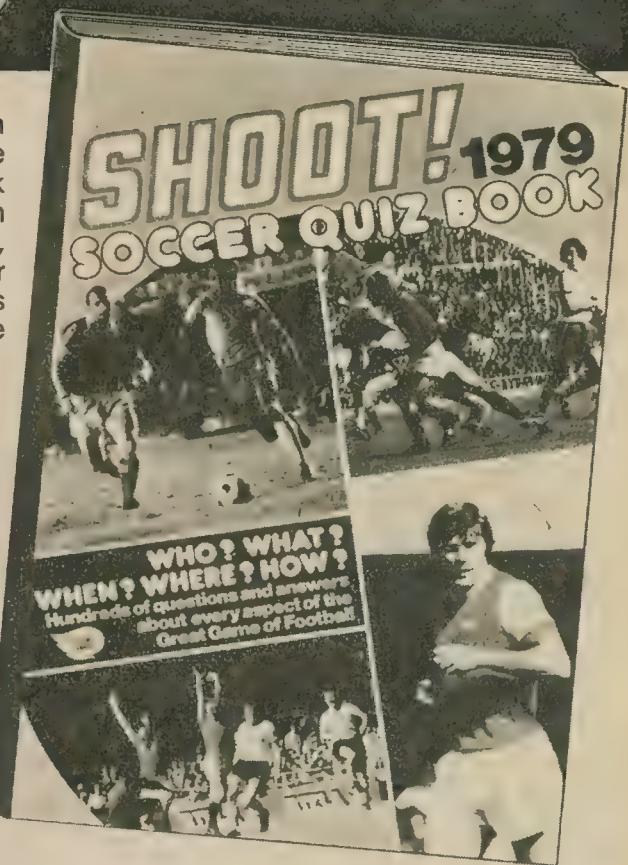
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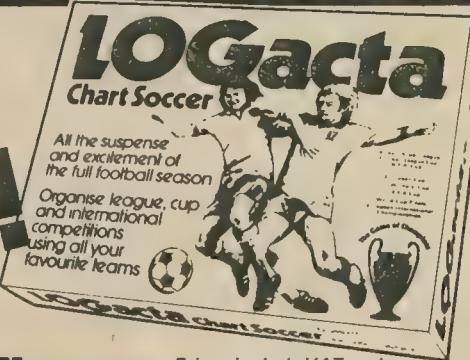
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AVAILABLE
EX STOCK

It was Hearts manager Willie Ormond who summed up the red-hot Scottish Premier Division best of all when he said: "We'll need to win the Championship to make sure we're not relegated."

And one look at the table will show you exactly what the former Scotland boss was talking about. In the middle of November, Hearts found themselves second bottom of the table . . . and yet they were only three points behind leaders Dundee United!

All this means two things. The big sweat and fantastic pressure for our managers and incredible excitement for the fans.

Now, I think it is terrible bosses bite the dust with such regularity . . . but I don't go along with those who say the Premier top ten set-up is ruining our game.

The Division is so tight it is nearly squeaking, but what a fantastic thing that is for people like Morton manager Benny Rooney who was honest enough to say after his side had beaten Dundee United: "When we won promotion our target was to stay up, but the way things are going now our target is the Championship."

That win took the Greenock side within two points of United and left them with only one defeat in ten League games . . . and yet they were third bottom.

I admit some sides might be going out with the attitude it doesn't matter if they don't win — as long as they avoid defeat. But I don't accept a 12 team set-up would be any different and 14 clubs would introduce a couple of weaker outfits who, quite frankly, would be certainties for the drop . . . and that would spoil the point of the whole operation.

Why do people think it is such a

problem? It is the fact we lack experience. Billy McNeill made two shrewd signings in Davie Provan from Kilmarnock and Murdo MacLeod from Dumbarton — talented lads, but still short of a taste of the really big time.

And when you consider you can say the same for Roy Aitken, Alan Sneddon, George McCluskey and Tommy Burns you will see my point.

When myself, Kenny Dalglish, Vic Davidson and the rest broke through we learned our trade from the Lisbon Lions, the most experienced of all in Europe, but now there is only really me to pass on the hints on the playing staff . . . and I am not even playing.

Only Rangers in Scotland really have any European experience so perhaps we need an old hand at the back who has been around a bit, especially since we have lost Pat Stanton.

Someone like John Blackley of Newcastle for example who has been over the course with Hibs and Scotland. John was a member of Scotland's World Cup 22 in West Germany. Or I don't suppose we would say no to a Willie Miller or a Martin Buchan!

Not that I am trying to tell my boss, Billy McNeill, his job, because Caeser is quite capable, thank you very much!

One way or another it is a fascinating race to the title and while I have already quoted my four to finish strong, I must be honest and say if United or The Dons are going to do it they will have to get a

Tartan Talk **DANNY**
McGRAIN

'CELTIC LACK EXPERIENCE'

bad thing that losing a couple of games can take you right down the table . . . and of course vice versa?

Football is all about effort and every player in the Premier Division this season is having to try just that little harder . . . and despite the pressure, there has been some tremendous football.

Only one team, Motherwell, is a little adrift and by the end of the season that could cost them dear.

I think the Championship will go to Celtic, Rangers, Aberdeen or Dundee United — possibly in that order — although this term is the best chance for a provincial club to do the business for over a decade.

Who knows, it might be Partick Thistle or St Mirren although I can't imagine either club doing a real turn in Europe. Mind you, if they win the title, they deserve the chance.

I suppose some people would say that given Celtic's recent European performances, I am in no position to talk!

On the subject of Celts, what of our own chances?

Well, I suppose if we do have a



Davie Provan (left) has proved a shrewd signing by manager Billy McNeill.

good run going round about now, for I feel both Rangers and us will come stronger after the New Year and that could sort out the men from the boys.

It's the tightest Division in Europe and if anyone dares suggest from South of the border that it is because we have no outstanding side, might I suggest they ask Juventus or PSV Eindhoven for their opinion.

Rangers sent both of them crashing from the European Cup and yet on the Saturday they drew with us at Hampden, they were only sixth in the Premier Division with 13 points from 13 games and 13 goals scored.

Consistent enough . . . but the way the Premier is going Rangers could become the first club in history to do the double . . . European Cup and relegation!

See you in two weeks . . .

NEXT WEEK'S TARTAN
TALK BY RANGERS'
DEREK JOHNSTONE

SCOTTISH soccer has a problem. Is the Premier Division the answer to falling attendances? Is the new Division attractive, entertaining and enterprising?

Or is the Top Ten governed by fear? Is it too tight, a Division where a point taken is a point won and not one dropped?

This week SHOOT looks at this controversial topic to deliver our answer.

First, the Division had new life breathed into it four seasons ago when the new three Division set-up came into being. The Premier was restricted to ten teams to ensure more competitive soccer and, really, no one can say it has failed in that particular task.

At one stage this season Partick Thistle, a team tipped by SHOOT to slip out of the Top Ten at the end of the programme, were joint top with Dundee United, but only five points ahead of second-bottom-placed Hearts!

There is a lovely quote to demonstrate the thinking of today's Premier managers. It is attributed to both Hearts' Willie Ormond and Morton's Benny Rooney and it goes: "You have got



"There is very little scope in this Division for young players" — Eddie Turnbull, Hibs' boss.

to win the Championship to get off the bottom of the Division."

It's a short, sharp quote that sums up the situation fairly accurately.

The Premier has its critics and its supporters. Celtic manager Billy McNeill says: "The present set-up is better than the old two Division system. It's the first thing we have tried in years and we have got to give it a chance.

"Maybe it would be an advantage to squeeze in two more clubs because there is a danger of fixture repetition. Last season my former club Aberdeen met Rangers SEVEN times."

When the change was made a lot of critics said it would put more pressure on the Old Firm and could end their monopoly of the League title which they have shared between themselves since 1965!

Certainly their domination has looked decidedly shaky this season and Alex Ferguson, who took over the Pittodrie hot-seat from McNeill, says: "I maintained right at the start it could help the other sides catch up with the Old Firm.

"I think we can see that

happening this season. My only criticism is it may be a little too tight. Another two teams would make it just right."

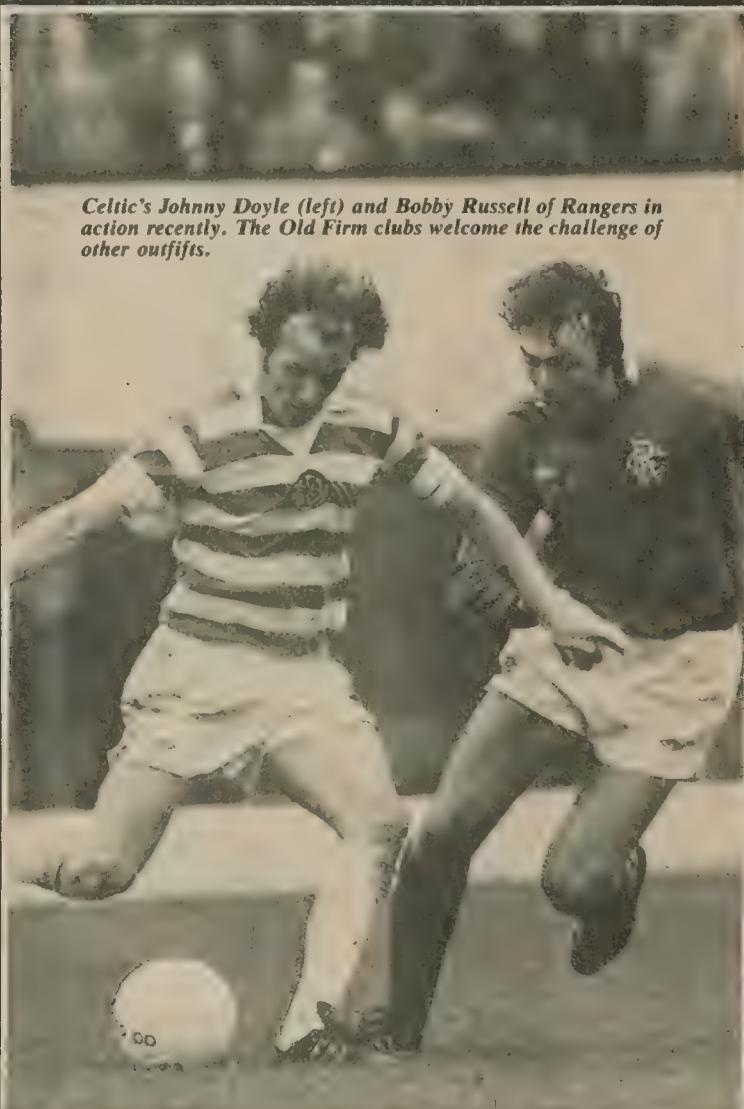
Celtic and Rangers, it must be said, appear to welcome the refreshing challenge. McNeill was enthusiastic after the recent 2-2 draw with Hibs at Easter Road.

"That was a fantastic game," he says. "It was great value for the fans. Surely there could be no complaints after a match like that."

There were no complaints after that wonderful match which combined marvellous skills, pulsating action and powerful shooting. That game was a perfect illustration of what can happen when two Premier sides open up and are willing to take the chance of going at each other.

There have been games this season when that, alas, has not been the case. Hibs' manager Eddie Turnbull, the longest-serving boss in the Top Ten, says simply, but effectively: "When you play away from home now you know you are facing a stiff challenge. There are no mugs in this Division."

ARE SCOTLAND'S RULERS



Celtic's Johnny Doyle (left) and Bobby Russell of Rangers in action recently. The Old Firm clubs welcome the challenge of other outfits.



"It's more like a Top Eight instead of a Top Ten. But financially it's better than the old system" — Bertie Auld, Partick Thistle.

Turnbull adds: "There is very little scope in this Division, though, for young players. Teams also tend to think of a draw as a good result."

That is where the fear factor comes in. Dundee United boss Jim McLean has said all along the Premier is possibly four teams too short and adds: "The competition is great until you remember two of the ten have to go at the end of the season."

"Those unfortunate sides go into a Division that is financially disastrous. It's strange to think only a meagre eight out of the ten will survive."

In total agreement with McLean is Partick Thistle manager Bertie Auld who says: "It's more like a Top Eight instead of a Top Ten."

"Financially it's better than the old system, but the bosses should put their heads together and work out a set-up with more teams. Fourteen or even 16 would be better."

Benny Rooney, the astute young Morton boss, has sampled only half a season in the top flight, but he, too, has determined views on the new structure. He says: "Spectators must find the competition good, but entertainment often suffers and a couple of extra teams would do it the world of good."

Rooney's side, in fact, were caught up in the weird position of the Premier when they went nine games without defeat yet just

Partick Thistle's Alex O'Hara scores his side's second and winning goal against Hibs. At one stage Thistle were tipped to be relegated.

could not climb the table.

"It was hard for the players to take," says Rooney. "They were doing everything they were asked, but at the same time they didn't see anything tangible for their efforts. Thankfully, they didn't lose heart. I told them to remember they were only a couple of points off the top."

"When we first came into this Division I thought it would be a good idea for us to consolidate our position, but now I believe we can go on to WIN it! Seriously, we have nothing to fear."

Another manager new to the Premier is St. Mirren's Jim Clunie, who took over at the start of the season. He says significantly: "Players are frightened of making mistakes because there is very little breathing space."

"At present the game is geared to giving nothing away, particularly in away matches. A



TOP TEN BY FEAR?

12-team League would be better."

Rangers' boss John Greig has been around the scene for 16 years now and he talks with conviction and experience when he says: "It is the most competitive in Scotland I have ever known.

"I doubt if it will settle until February. But I must admit there are no more meaningless fixtures. Every point has to be fought for.

"It doesn't make much difference to me how many teams are in the League because you must try to win EVERY game. It's as simple as that, basically."

John Hagart, Motherwell's stand-in boss in the absence of Roger Hynd, who quit this season, says forcibly: "The League has meant a drop in quality. The players are now involved in survival soccer."

"The legislators must either choose a Top Ten and abolish relegation or increase the number of teams so that the pressure of relegation isn't so demanding."

Willie Ormond adds: "The way things are going, nine out of ten teams could be fighting against relegation at the end of the season!"

"It's becoming the same as the Italian League with many games producing few goals. I like attacking soccer, but forwards are

being crucified."

There can be little doubt that teams are developing safety-first tactics away from home. It would be marvellous to see these teams throwing off the heavy defensive armour and switching to rapier-like raids that the fans love so much.

The competition has never been fiercer, the tackling has never been tougher and individualists are getting little scope to demonstrate their undoubted talents.

Jim Baxter, one of the most famous Scottish footballers of all time, admits: "It's tight all right and I don't think I could have survived in it. I would have been heavily marked and I never enjoyed that."

Baxter is probably being modest — a player of his extraordinary skills could have performed anywhere in the world — but you must get his point. The game is becoming all about work rate and players who are willing to run for 90 minutes and produce 100 per cent effort in every game are suddenly being preferred to the skilful ball player who may now be considered a luxury in such a hectic, hurly burly atmosphere.

Baxter points to the likes of Bobby Russell (Rangers), Tommy Burns (Celtic), David Narey (Dundee United), Bobby Houston

(Partick Thistle) and Frank McGarvey (St. Mirren) as the young men who excite him on a Saturday afternoon, but the list is undoubtedly dwindling.

It wasn't that long ago the Scottish scene was crammed with flamboyant showmen such as Jimmy Johnstone, Tommy Gemmell, Willie Henderson, Joe Baker, Pat Crerand and, of course, Slim Jim Baxter himself among many, many others. However, these players are not being produced in the same numbers these days.

Celtic are to be applauded for playing with two direct wingers in Davie Provan, on the right, and Johnny Doyle, on the left, but there aren't many other sides following this particular lead as they pour players into the middle of the park, creating a bottleneck situation where players find it extremely difficult to get through and into the danger zones.

Forecast

Still, the Division is only in its fourth year and it must be given time, but SHOOT's forecast is that there will be at least a couple of teams added to it in the future.

There will still be grumbles, of course, but talent must be allowed the opportunity to be expressed. What a terrible waste it is to see multi-talented players becoming workhorses, thundering across the park instead of prancing gracefully and opening defences with inventiveness where they may try to bludgeon their way through just now.

It's a problem for which a solution must be found before more talent is buried under the rubble of fear ...



"When we first came in to the Premier I thought it would be good to consolidate our position. Now I think we can win it" — Benny Rooney, Morton.



SOCCKET STATS

JOHN Robertson (right, centre), the scourge of First Division defences, has now played more senior games for Nottingham Forest than any other player on the books. Irish international Martin O'Neill's recent injury kept him on 240 appearances, while the Scotland winger moved on to 241 with the First Division game against Tottenham at White Hart Lane on November 11th.

KEVIN Bond, son of Norwich City manager John, scored his first-ever Division One goal in the Carrow Road club's 1-0 home win against Coventry City on Saturday, November 18th.

ON THE same Saturday, Bristol City's Joe Royle was sent-off for the first time in 13 years of First Division football.

CHARLTON Athletic's incredible 5-5 draw at Bristol Rovers on November 18th was the highest aggregate score in the Football League so far this season.

VIV Anderson, the talented Nottingham Forest defender, became the first black player to be selected for a full England squad when he was named for the recent friendly against Czechoslovakia at Wembley.

JOHN Barnwell, the former Peterborough manager, became the seventh boss of Wolves since the last War. The other six were Ted Vizard, Stan Cullis, Andy Beattie, Ron Allen, Bill McGarry, and Sammy Chung.

BILL Hails, who was a player at Peterborough for seven years, was the man chosen to succeed Barnwell.

HAMBURGER SV and England superstar Kevin Keegan was recently voted West German Soccer's 'Man of the Year'.

THIRD Division Lincoln City ended a bleak run of 416 minutes of League football without a goal when they scored three against Plymouth Argyle, at Sincil Bank on

November 18th. The match finished 3-3.

YOU just can't keep Nottingham Forest out of the news these days. They reached another milestone when, on November 18th, they drew 0-0 at home to Queens Park Rangers they celebrated a year of unbeaten First Division football.

STEVE Gatting (left) has impressed a lot of people this season with his displays for Arsenal and looks set for a promising career in football. His brother Mike has also hit the headlines in his time. Not for football but cricket. He plays for Middlesex and is regarded, like Steve, as a fine prospect.



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BURNLEY . . . THE CLARETS

ABOVE LEFT . . . Burnley's Billy Ingham (on ground) scores against Brighton in their 3-0 home win.

ABOVE RIGHT . . . Steve Kindon (left) lets fly with a header which is saved on the line by Crystal Palace 'keeper John Burridge.

LEFT . . . Boss at Turf Moor, Harry Potts.

RIGHT . . . An overhead kick by striker Paul Fletcher flashes over the crossbar during their Anglo-Scottish Cup Semi-Final tie against Mansfield.



Leighton James, a £165,000 signing from Q.P.R., forces a corner against Brighton.

BURTON



BACK ROW (left to right): Brian Hall, Joe Jakub, Billy Ingham, Terry Cochrane, (now Middlesbrough)

MIDDLE ROW: Marshall Burke, Ian Brennan, Steve Kindon, Alan Stevenson, Peter Robinson, Bob Higgins, Terry Pasley

FRONT ROW: Malcolm Smith, Billy Rodaway, Paul Fletcher, Peter Noble, Jim Thomson, Tony Morley, Derek Scott